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PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN[™]



MILGROM

HOW YA GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN AT THE MORGUE AFTER THEY'VE SEEN N.Y.C.?

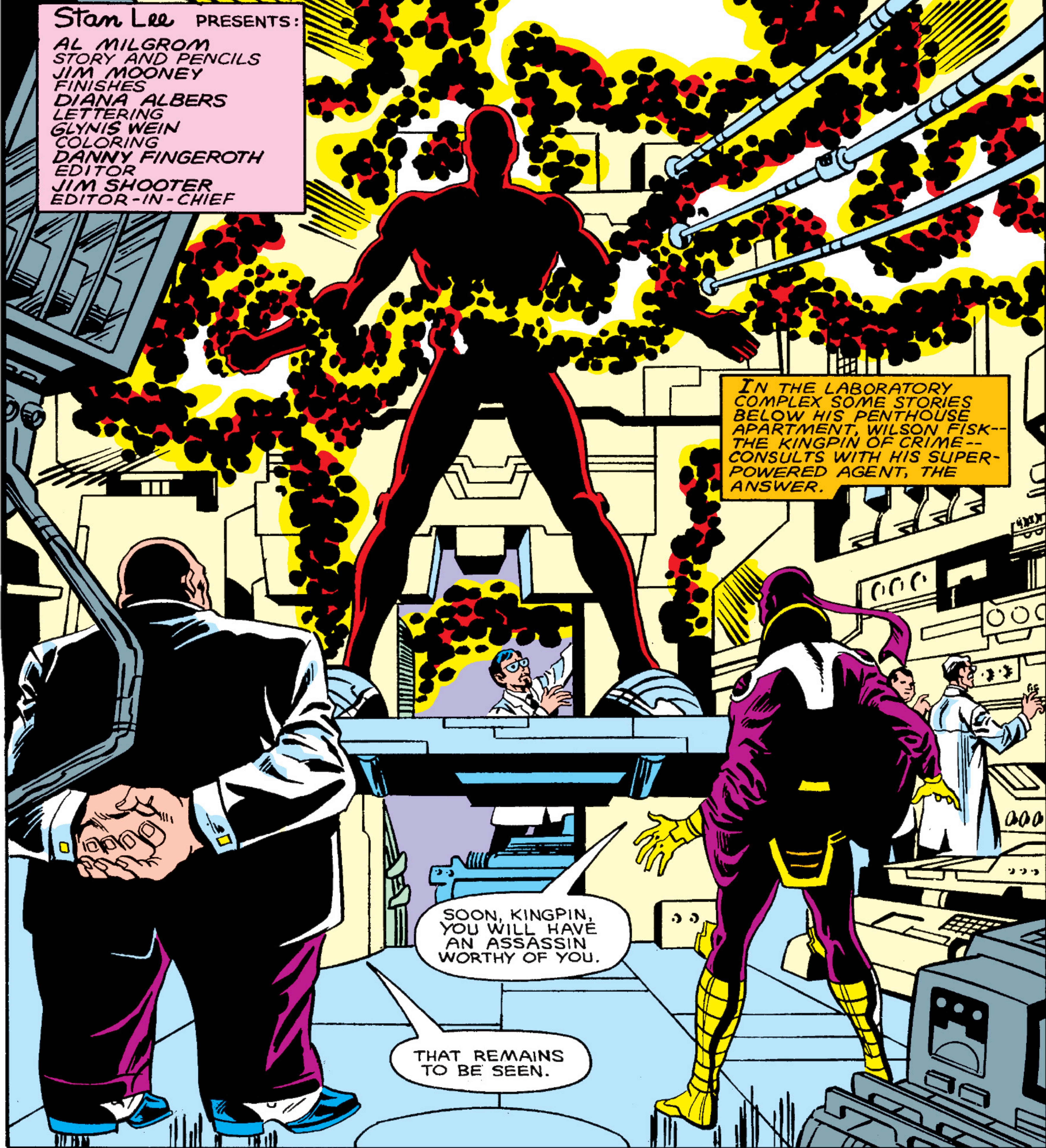
Stan Lee PRESENTS:

AL MILGROM
STORY AND PENCILS
JIM MOONEY
FINISHES
DIANA ALBERS
LETTERING
GLYNIS WEIN
COLORING
DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

IN THE LABORATORY
COMPLEX SOME STORIES
BELOW HIS PENTHOUSE
APARTMENT, WILSON FISK--
THE KINGPIN OF CRIME--
CONSULTS WITH HIS SUPER-
POWERED AGENT, THE
ANSWER.

SOON, KINGPIN,
YOU WILL HAVE
AN ASSASSIN
WORTHY OF YOU.

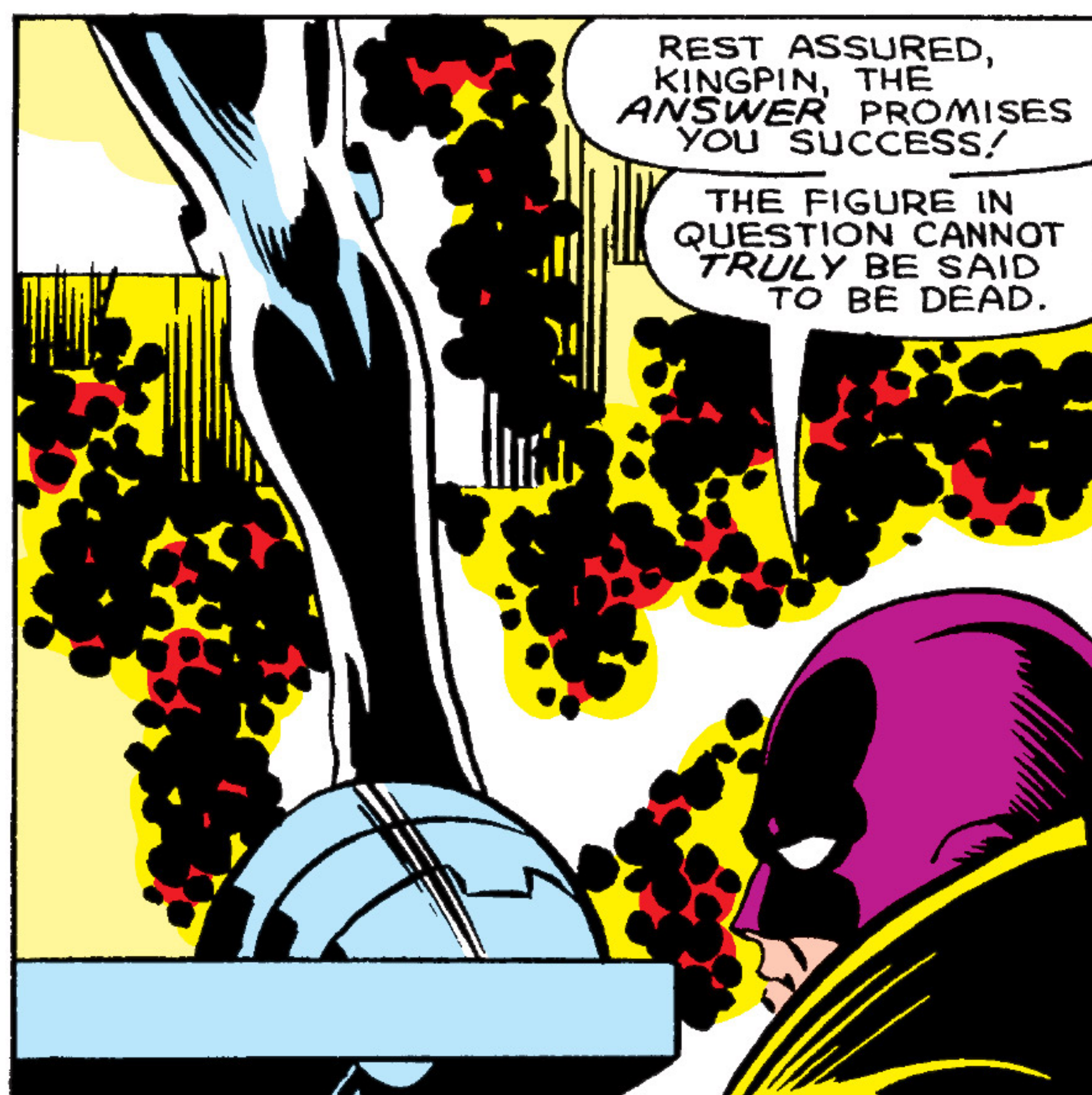
THAT REMAINS
TO BE SEEN.





MY SCIENTISTS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS DEVICE WILL REVIVE THE BODY YOU BROUGHT ME--

-- THE BODY OF ONE LONG DEAD!



REST ASSURED, KINGPIN, THE ANSWER PROMISES YOU SUCCESS!

THE FIGURE IN QUESTION CANNOT TRULY BE SAID TO BE DEAD.



HIS MORTAL FORM WAS SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED AND BROUGHT BACK FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH ONCE BEFORE.

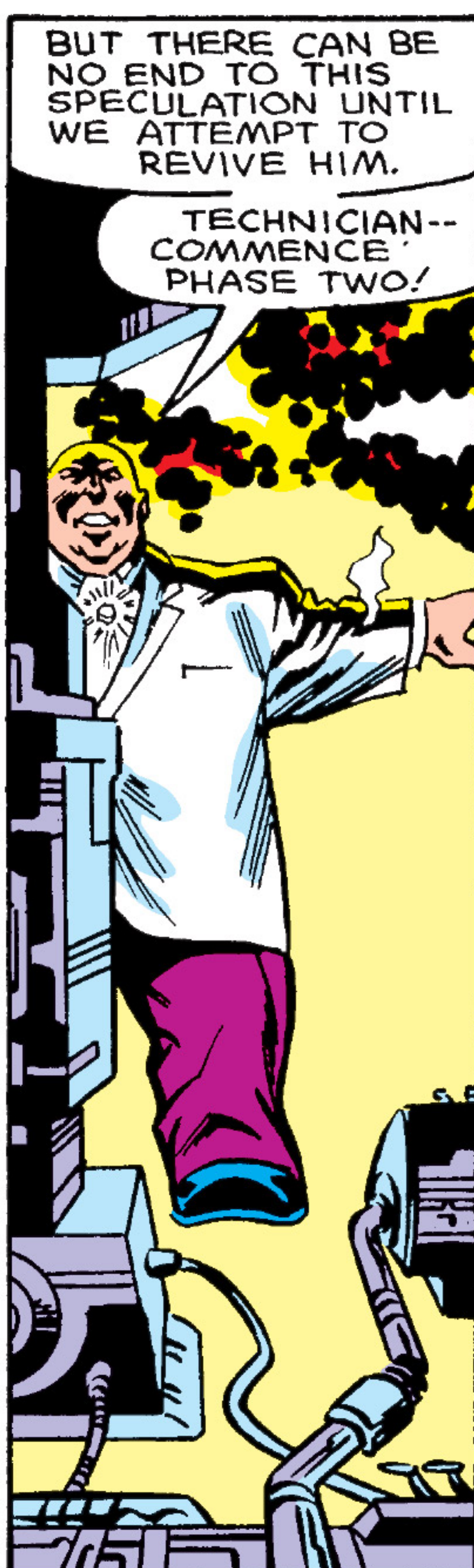
WHAT'S MORE, THE ENERGIES USED TO DISPATCH HIM *THIS* TIME WERE OF MOST UNUSUAL ORIGIN.

THEY SEEM TO HAVE MERELY *DISPLACED* HIS LIFE FORCE-- NOT TO HAVE SNUFFED IT OUT!



VERY WELL, THEN. I CONFESS TO A CERTAIN AMUSEMENT AT THE IRONY IN USING AN OLD RIVAL AS MY ASSASSIN.

STILL, I QUESTION JUST HOW *EFFECTIVE* SUCH A CREATURE CAN BE. MY STANDARDS ARE HIGH.

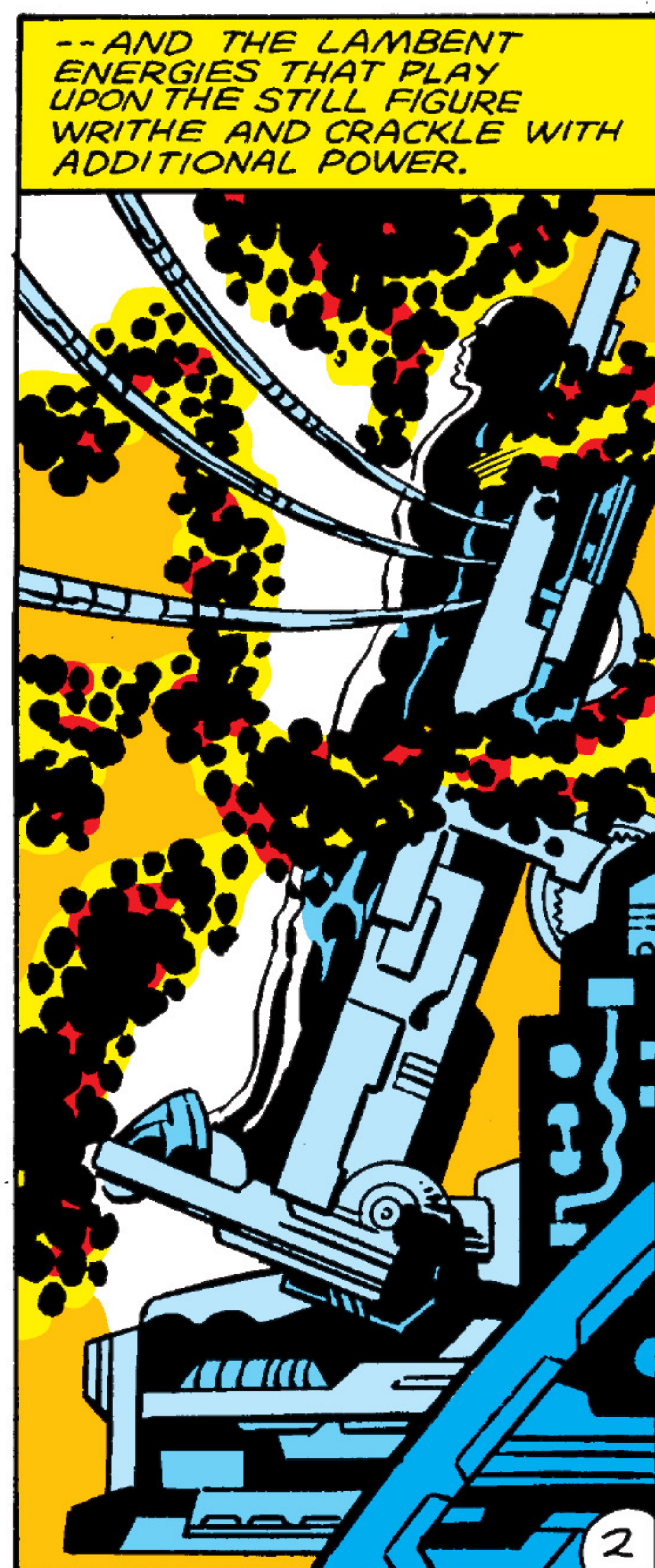


BUT THERE CAN BE NO END TO THIS SPECULATION UNTIL WE ATTEMPT TO REVIVE HIM.

TECHNICIAN-- COMMENCE PHASE TWO!



AT THE KINGPIN'S GESTURE, A LEVER IS THROWN--



-- AND THE LAMBERT ENERGIES THAT PLAY UPON THE STILL FIGURE WRITHE AND CRACKLE WITH ADDITIONAL POWER.



THE LIGHT RADIATING FROM THE MECHANISM BURNS HELLISH BRIGHT AND THE TECHNICIANS GIVE GROUND BEFORE THE AWESOME GLOW...



EVEN THE ANSWER INSTINCTIVELY RAISES A HAND TO PROTECT HIS EYES, THOUGH HIS POWER WOULD HAVE COMPENSATED IN A MOMENT.

ONLY THE KINGPIN OF CRIME BRAVES THE GLARE.



SQUINTING UNFLINCHINGLY INTO THE HEART OF THE INFERNO, HE GRINS.

SELDOM DOES THE KINGPIN SHOW EMOTION, BUT AT THIS INSTANT HE CANNOT HELP BUT REJOICE IN THE POWER HE WIELDS.

WHO BUT THE KINGPIN COULD THIS PLAY WITH ENERGIES THAT DICTATE MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH?



BUT THE SMILE IS A FLEETING ONE, GIVING WAY TO A LOOK OF SOUL-FELT SORROW. HIS THOUGHTS TURN TO ONE WHOM ALL HIS POWER CANNOT HELP-- ONE MOST DEAR TO HIM--

--HIS WIFE, VANESSA, WHO IS GRAVELY ILL IN BODY AND SOUL.

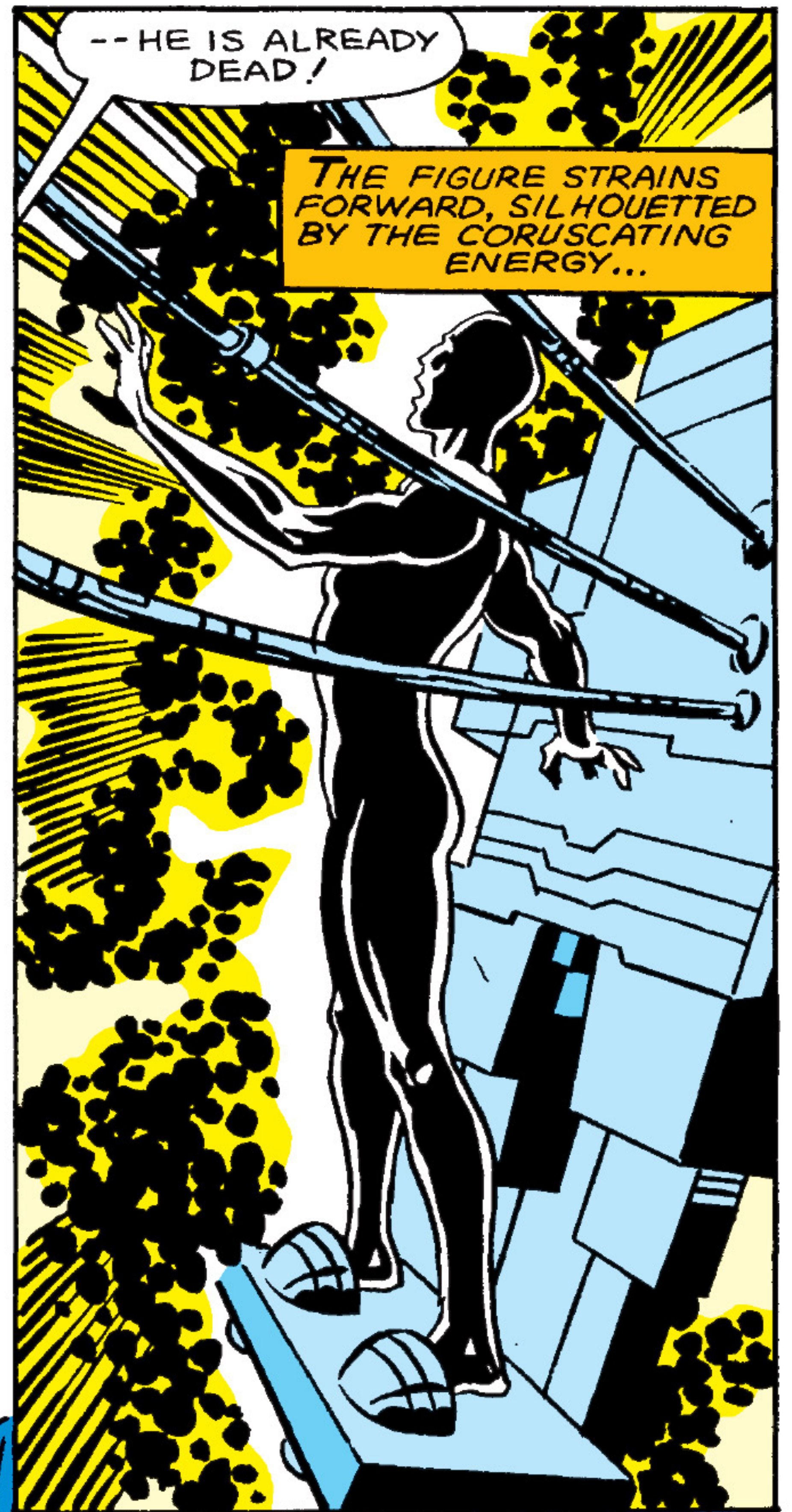


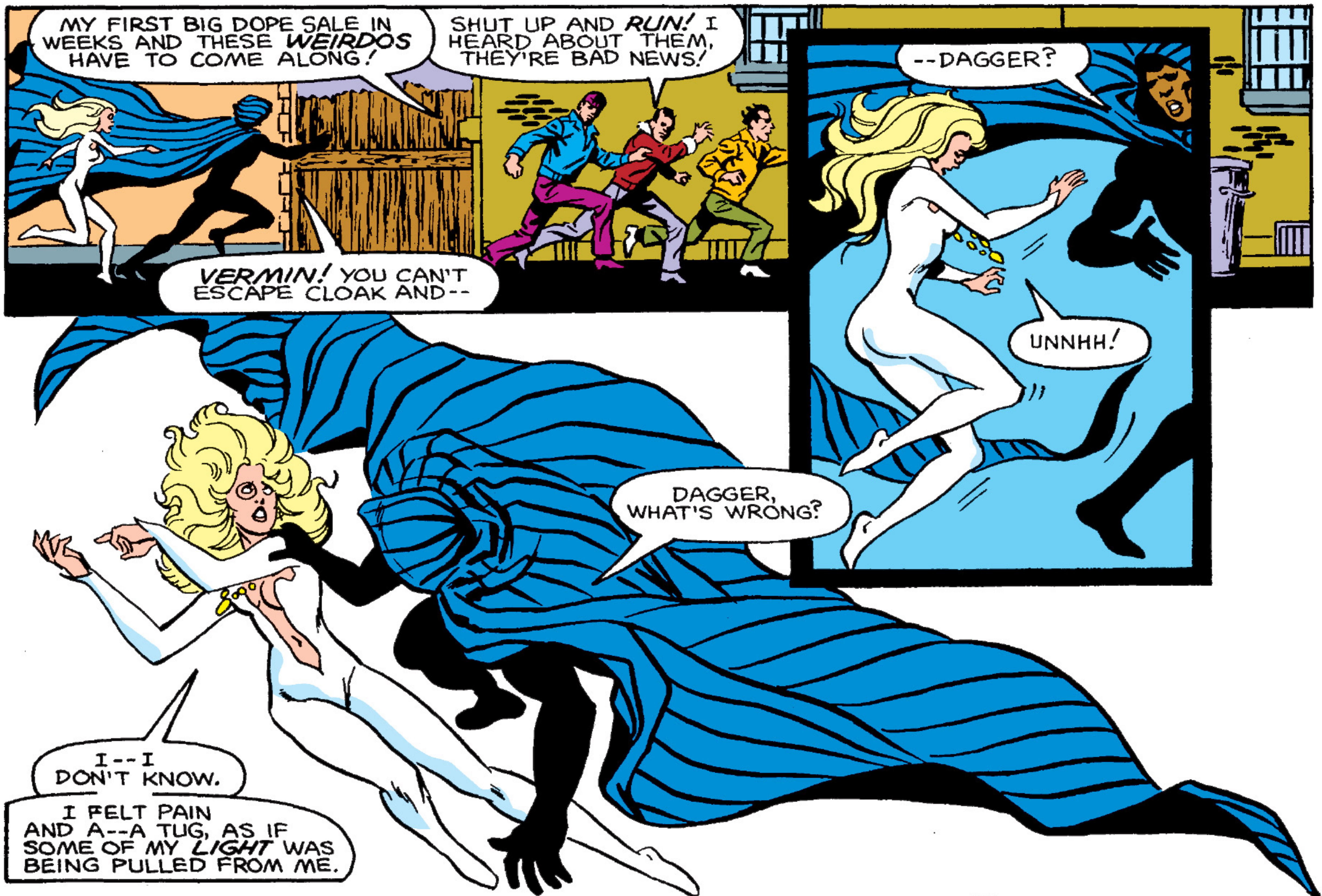
BUT HIS SAD REVERIE IS BRUTALLY TORN FROM HIM AS...

LOOK! THE BODY-- ITS ARM--



IT'S MOVING!





MY FIRST BIG DOPE SALE IN WEEKS AND THESE **WEIRDOS** HAVE TO COME ALONG!

SHUT UP AND **RUN!** I HEARD ABOUT THEM, THEY'RE BAD NEWS!

VERMIN! YOU CAN'T ESCAPE CLOAK AND--

--DAGGER?

UNHHH!

DAGGER, WHAT'S WRONG?

I--I DON'T KNOW.

I FELT PAIN AND A--A TUG, AS IF SOME OF MY **LIGHT** WAS BEING PULLED FROM ME.



THE ARTIFICIAL DRUGS THAT WERE INJECTED INTO US-- AN EXPERIMENT ON RUNAWAY CHILDREN BY ORGANIZED CRIME --GAVE YOU YOUR CURSE OF DARKNESS...

... AND GRANTED **YOU** THE BLESSING OF LIGHT, THE POWER TO GIVE OR TAKE THAT LIFE ENERGY IN ALL LIVING THINGS.



YES, BUT IN ALL THE TIME WE'VE HAD THESE ABILITIES, I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE **THIS** BEFORE.

HEY, **LOOK!** THE LONG-JOHN BRIGADE STOPPED DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS.

GUESS THEY AIN'T SO MUCH AFTER ALL.



WHATSAMATTER, PAL? YOUR GIRLFRIEND DON'T LOOK SO HOT!

SHE NEED A **FIX?** THAT WHY YOU WERE CHASING US-- FOR THIS?

YOU CAN HAVE IT--FOR A **PRICE!**

CLOAK LOOKS UP FROM HIS FALLEN COMPANION...

HE IS NOT AMUSED.

SCUM! ALL THE DRUGS HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN PURGED FROM OUR BODIES!

YET, I STILL HAVE AN ADDICTION--

A HUNGER FAR GREATER THAN ANY YOU COULD UNDERSTAND--

--OR YOUR PUNY POISONS COULD INSTILL!

YOU SPOKE OF A PRICE-- I WILL PAY YOU IN COIN FAR GREATER THAN YOU COULD EVER DREAM!

BUT TO COLLECT IT YOU MUST ENTER THE DARK DIMENSION THAT IS MY BODY!

AS HE SPEAKS, CLOAK'S CAPE BILLOWS AND SPREADS, SWIFTLY SWALLOWING UP THE ENTIRE ALLEYWAY, AND--

--ENGULFING THE DRUG DEALERS, ONE--

EDDIE HELP! HE'S GOT M--!

--AFTER ANOTHER!

OH, MY G--!

NO! DON'T DO IT, MAN! I'M SORRY, REALLY! I'M SORR--

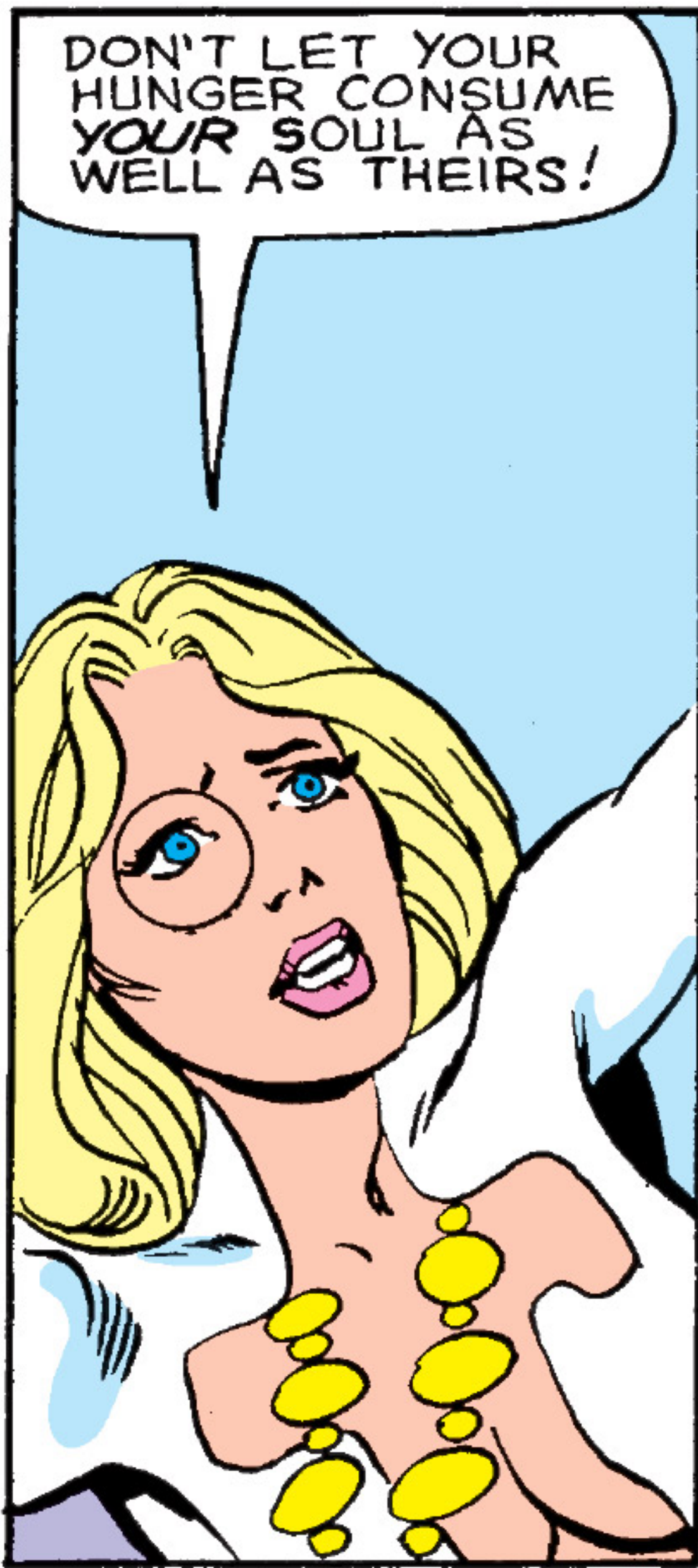
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

AHH! AT LAST THE DARKNESS CAN FEAST-- AND I NEED NOT TAKE DAGGER'S PRECIOUS LIGHT TO FEED IT!

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NO, CLOAK...
DON'T!

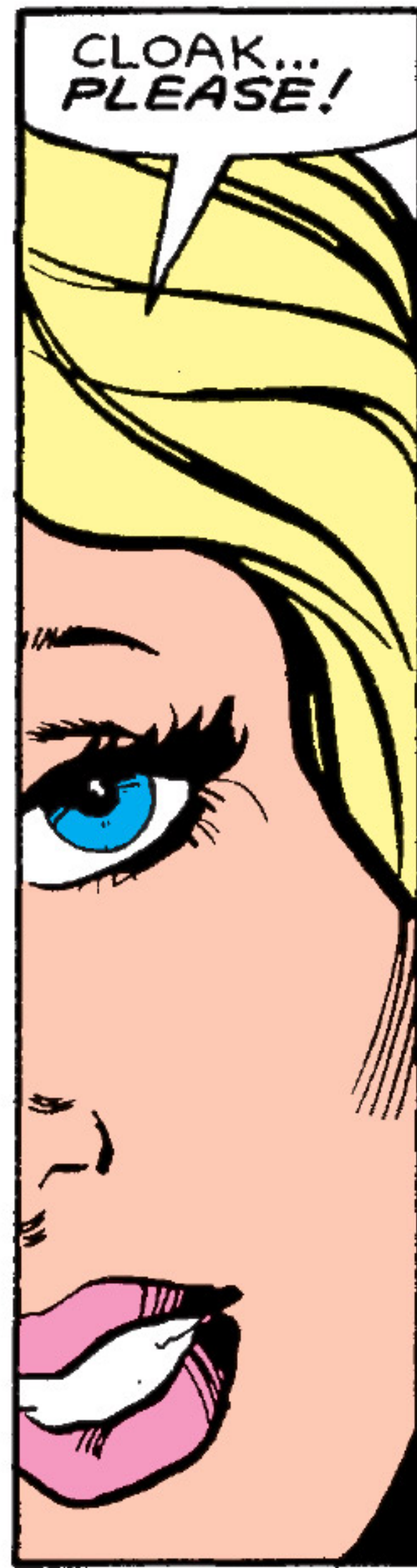


DON'T LET YOUR
HUNGER CONSUME
**YOUR SOUL AS
WELL AS THEIRS!**



MY DARKNESS
NEEDS THEIR
LIGHT-- AND
YOU'RE TOO
WEAK NOW TO
FEED ME ANY
OF YOURS.

I **MUST**
KEEP THEM!



CLOAK...
PLEASE!



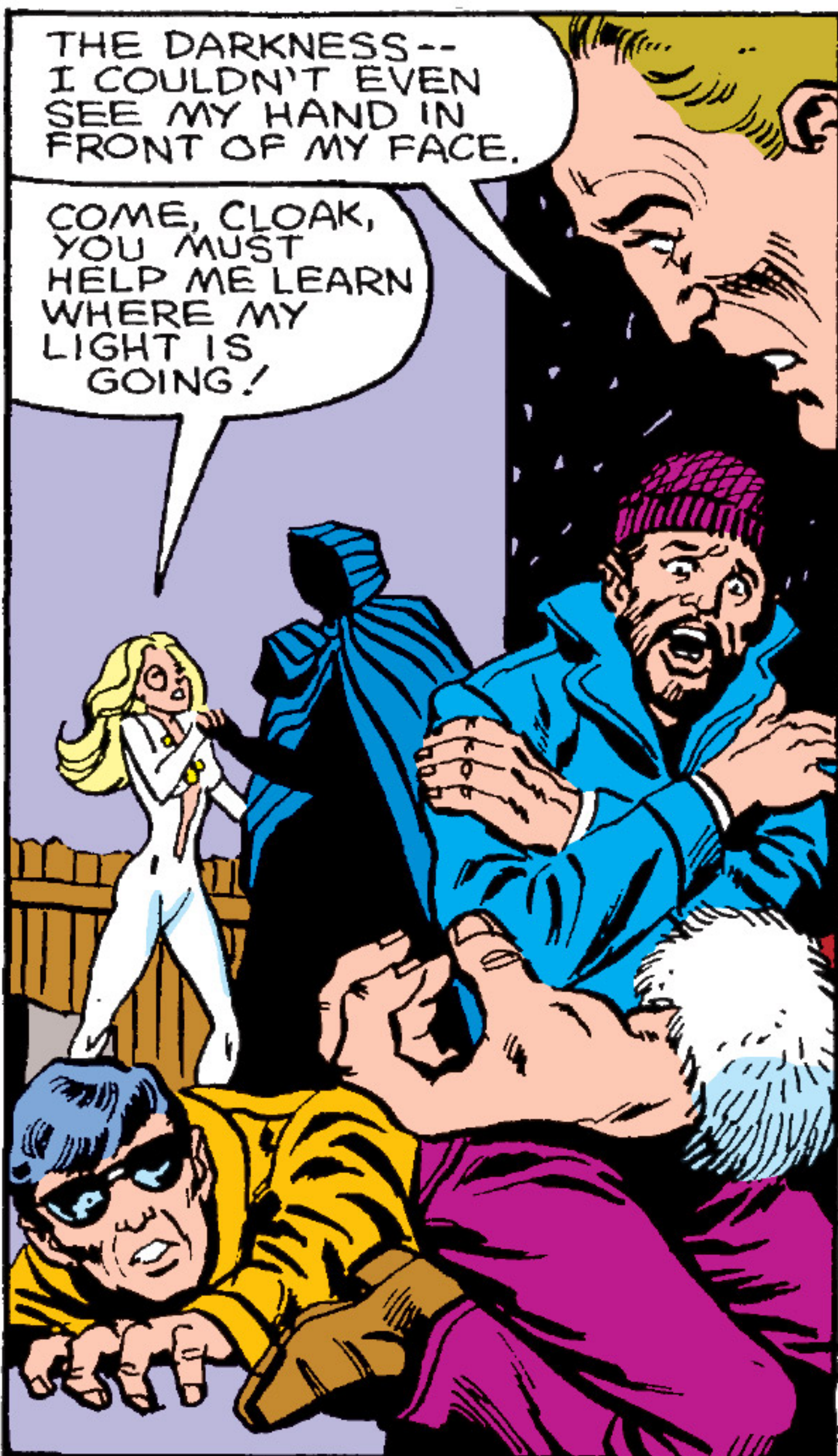
I--I--



--VERY
WELL.

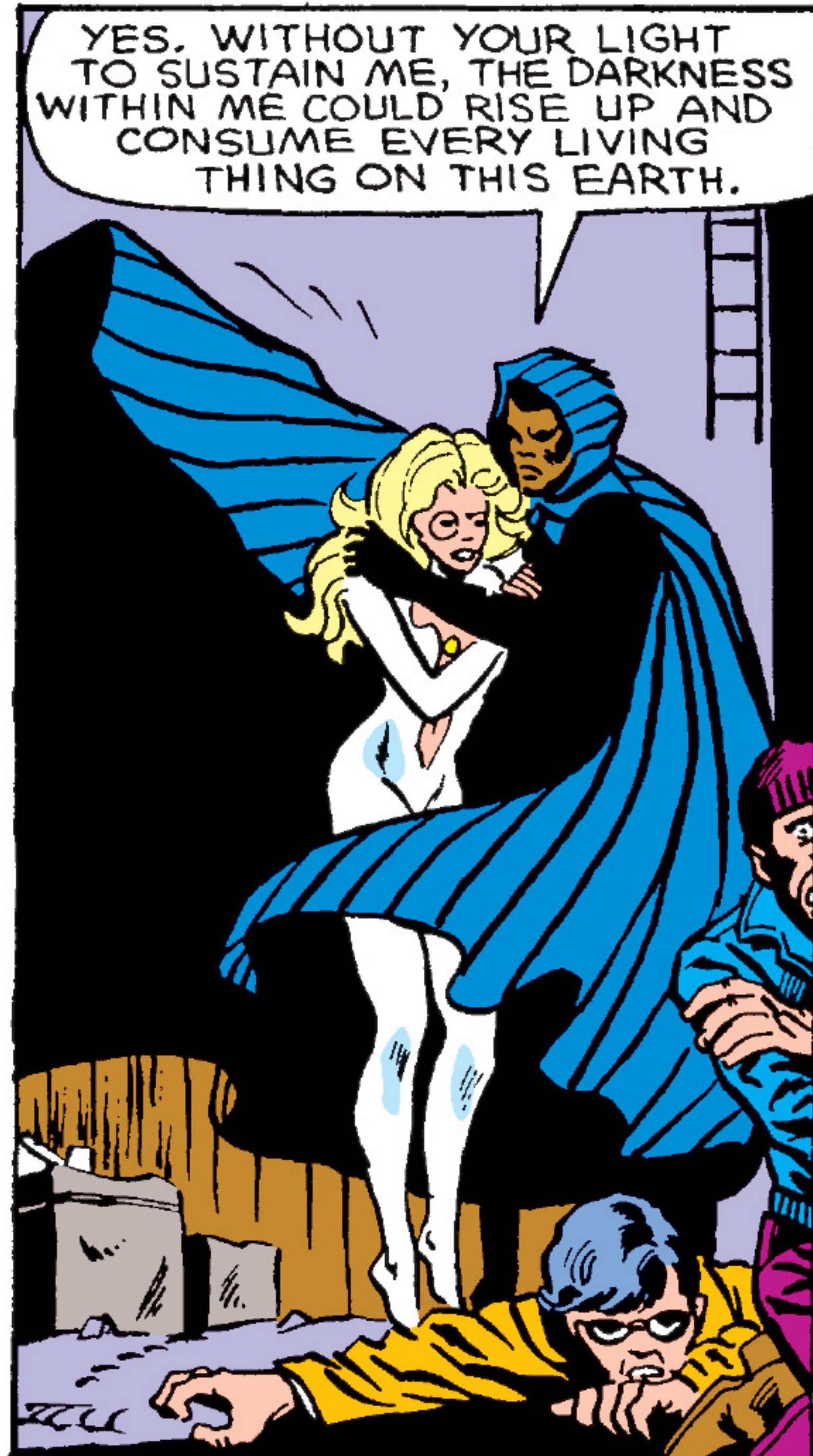
W-WE'RE
BACK!

I-IT WAS SO COLD--
SO VERY COLD!

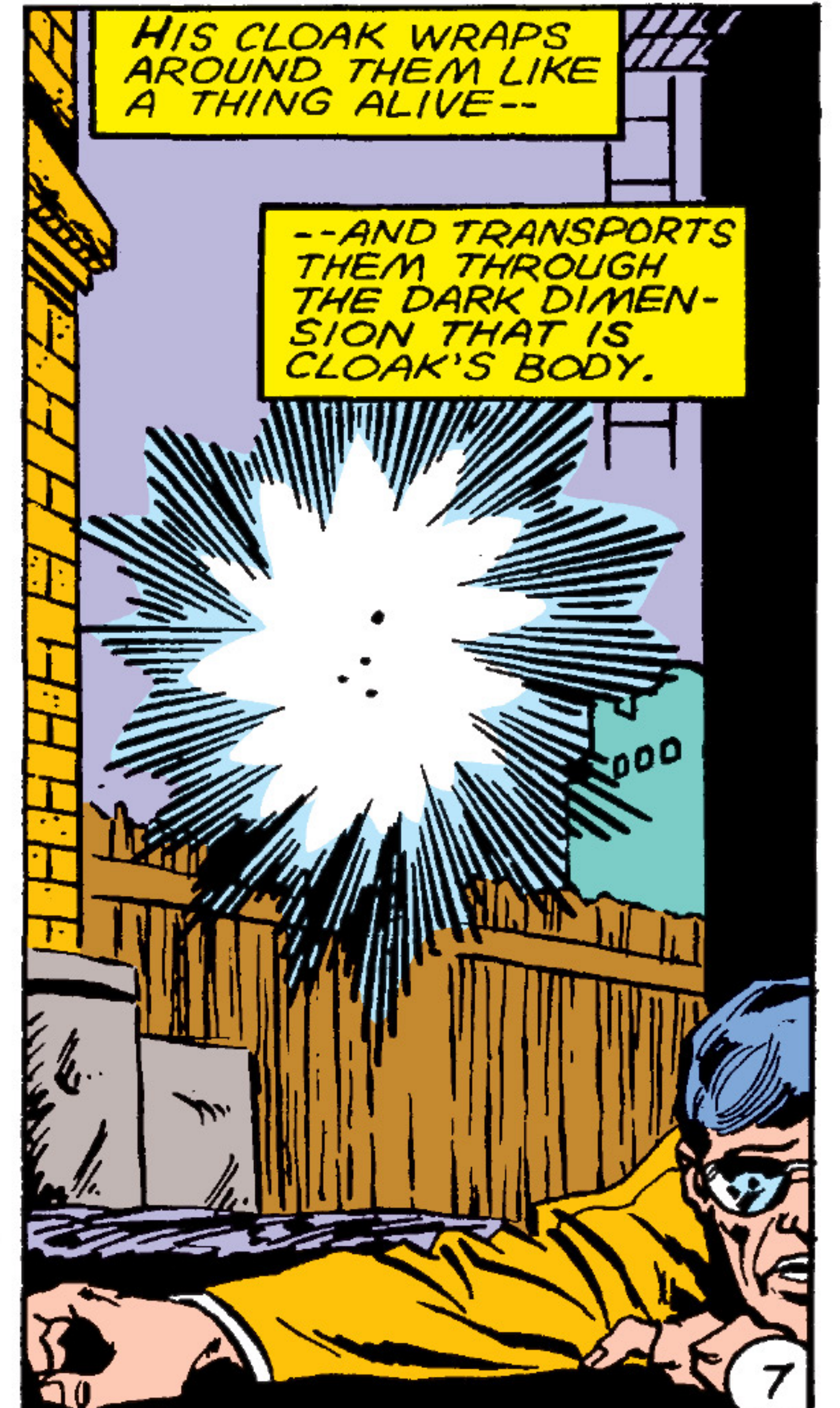


THE DARKNESS--
I COULDN'T EVEN
SEE MY HAND IN
FRONT OF MY FACE.

COME, CLOAK,
YOU MUST
HELP ME LEARN
WHERE MY
LIGHT IS
GOING!

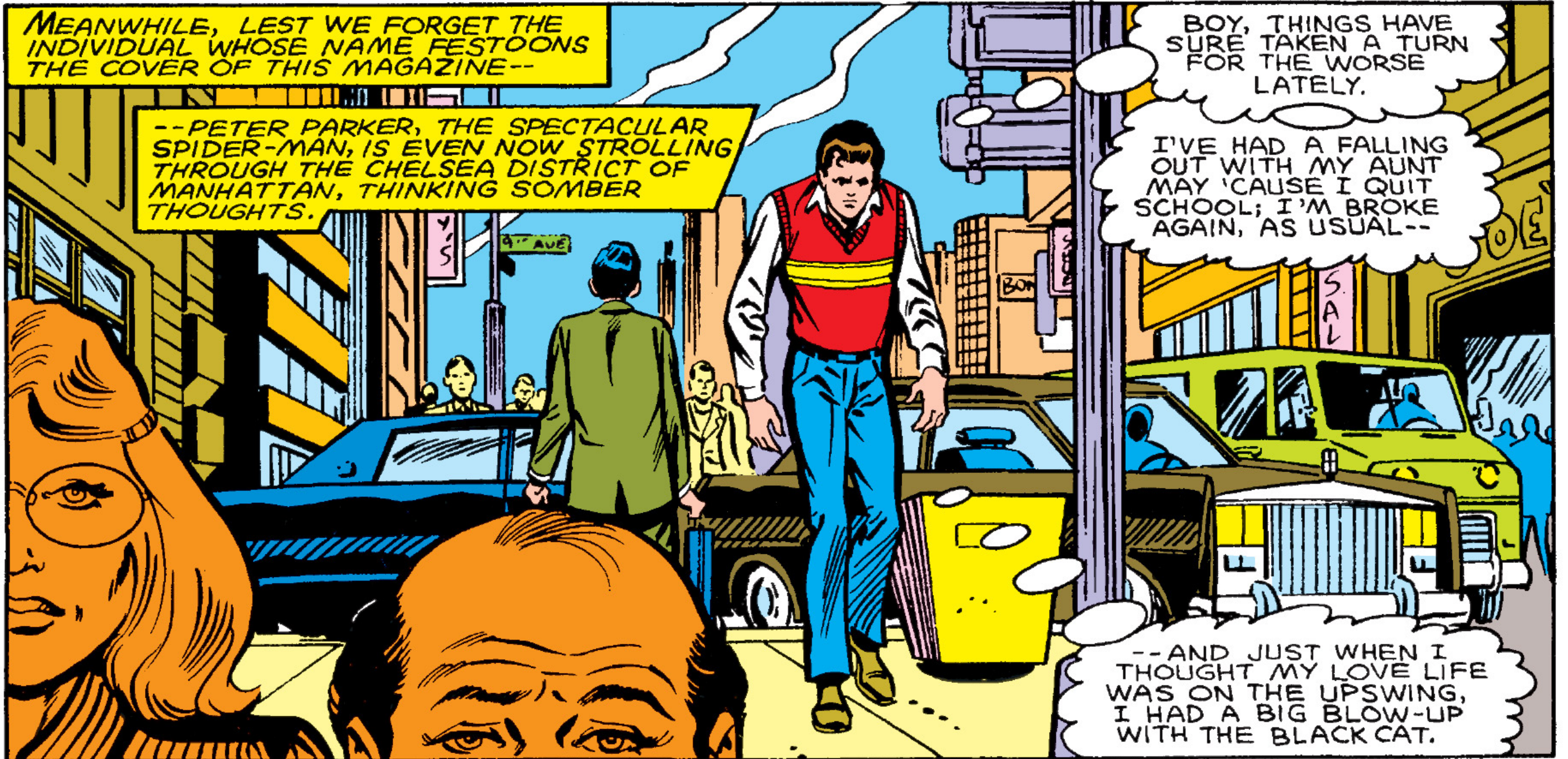


YES. WITHOUT YOUR LIGHT
TO SUSTAIN ME, THE DARKNESS
WITHIN ME COULD RISE UP AND
CONSUME EVERY LIVING
THING ON THIS EARTH.



HIS CLOAK WRAPS
AROUND THEM LIKE
A THING ALIVE--

--AND TRANSPORTS
THEM THROUGH
THE DARK DIMEN-
SION THAT IS
CLOAK'S BODY.



MEANWHILE, LEST WE FORGET THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE NAME FESTOONS THE COVER OF THIS MAGAZINE--

--PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, IS EVEN NOW STROLLING THROUGH THE CHELSEA DISTRICT OF MANHATTAN, THINKING SOMBER THOUGHTS.

BOY, THINGS HAVE SURE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE LATELY.

I'VE HAD A FALLING OUT WITH MY AUNT MAY 'CAUSE I QUIT SCHOOL; I'M BROKE AGAIN, AS USUAL--

--AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT MY LOVE LIFE WAS ON THE UPSWING, I HAD A BIG BLOW-UP WITH THE BLACK CAT.



WHY CAN'T I HAVE A NICE, NORMAL RELATIONSHIP LIKE THE ONE I HAD WITH GWEN STACY BEFORE SHE DIED?

HARRY OSBORN AND LIZ SURE SEEM HAPPY WITH THEIR MARRIAGE. I WISH...



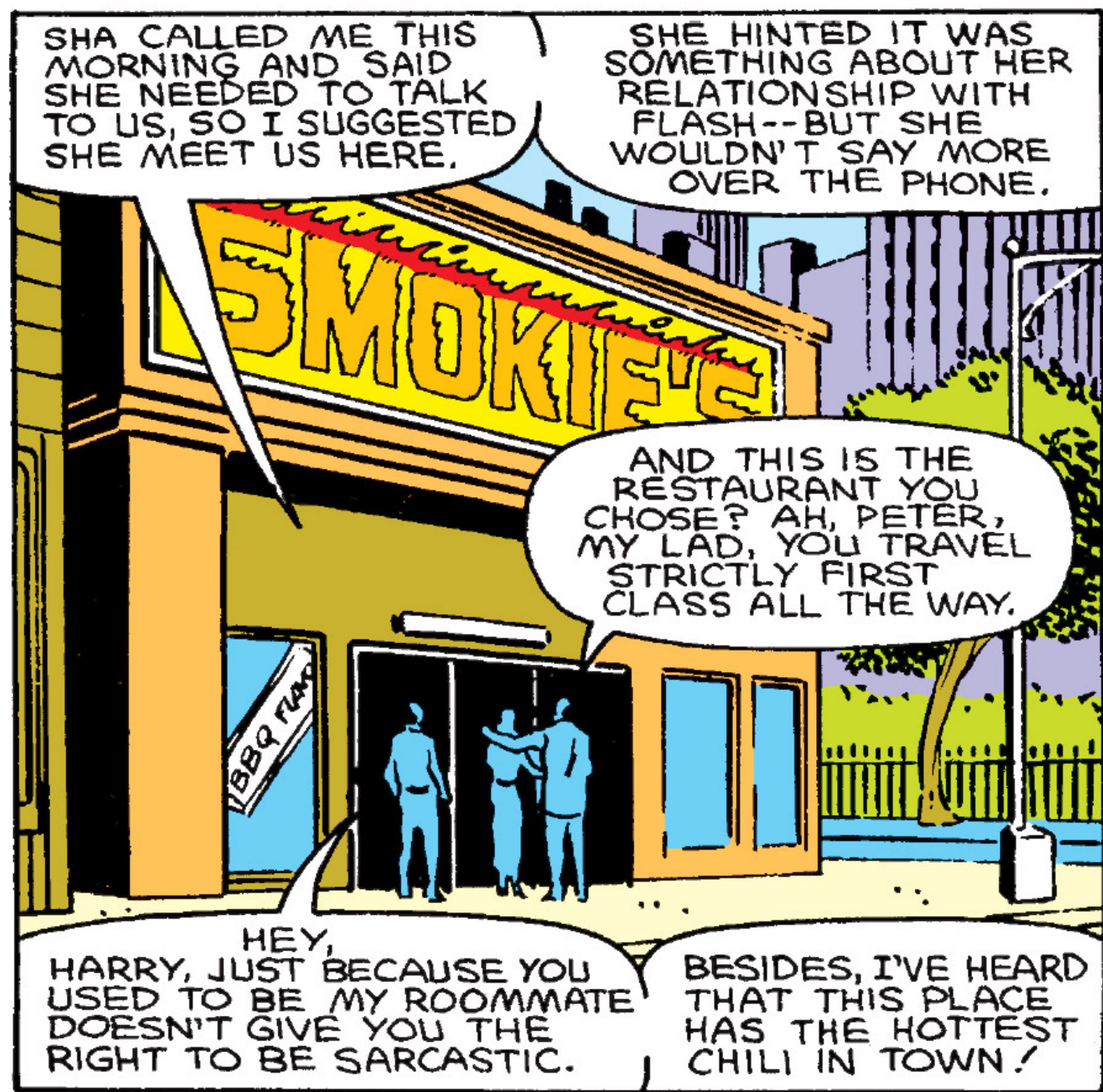
HEY, PETE-- WOOL GATHERING?

HARRY-- LIZ, I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU TWO.



AND WHY NOT? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET US FOR LUNCH WITH SHA SHAN! ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S ABOUT?

NOT REALLY.



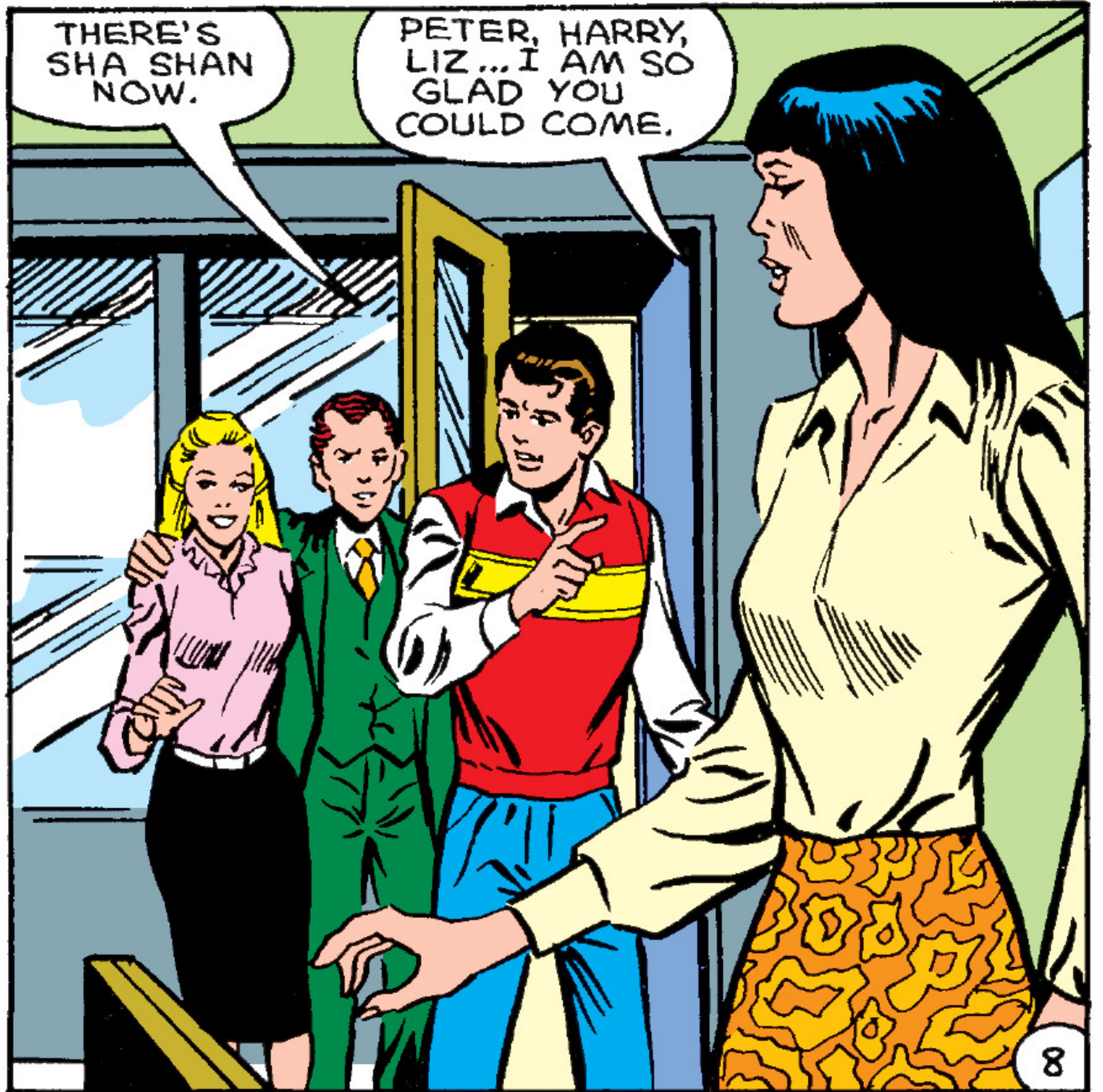
SHA CALLED ME THIS MORNING AND SAID SHE NEEDED TO TALK TO US, SO I SUGGESTED SHE MEET US HERE.

SHE HINTED IT WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH FLASH--BUT SHE WOULDN'T SAY MORE OVER THE PHONE.

AND THIS IS THE RESTAURANT YOU CHOSE? AH, PETER, MY LAD, YOU TRAVEL STRICTLY FIRST CLASS ALL THE WAY.

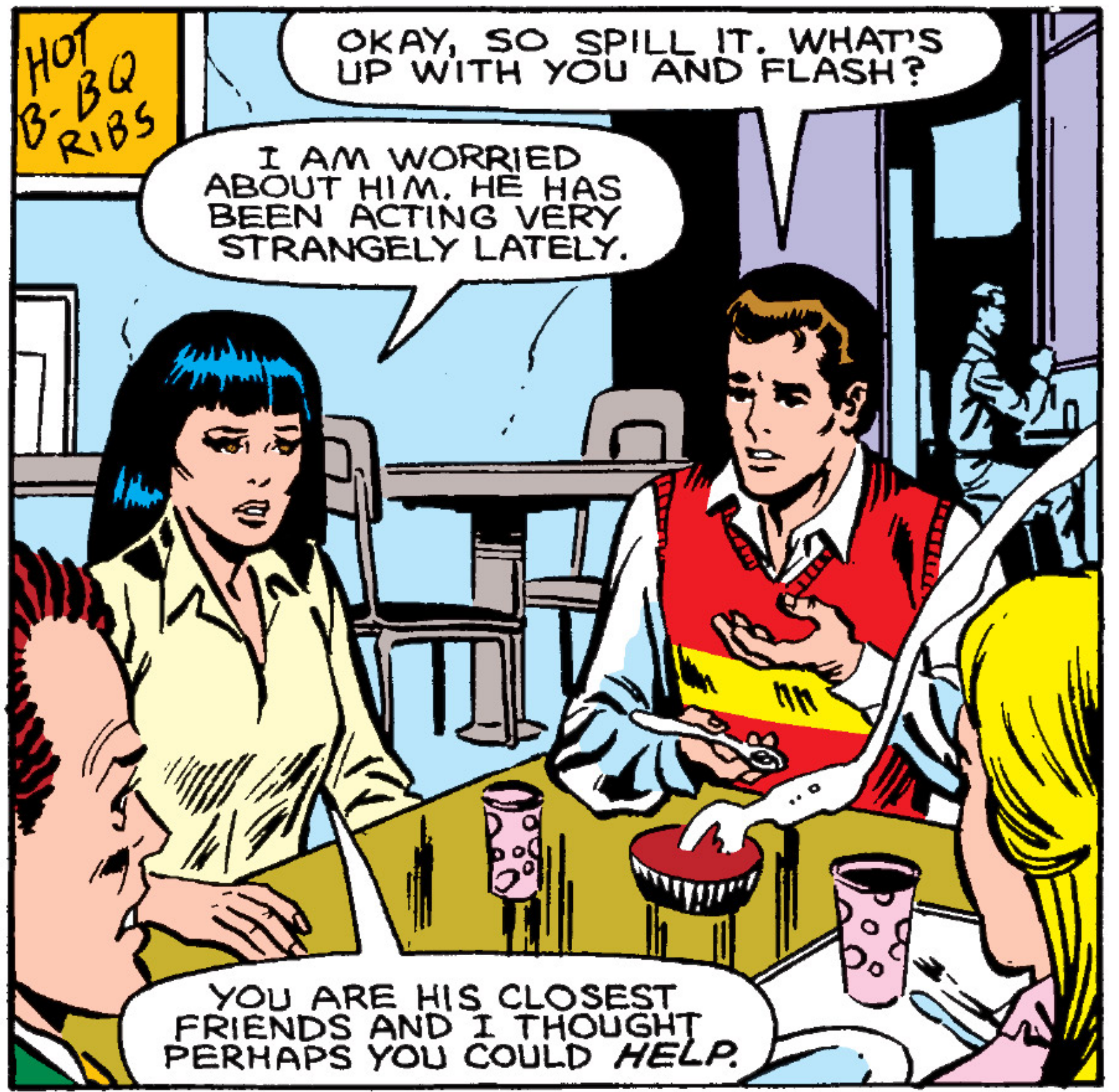
HEY, HARRY, JUST BECAUSE YOU USED TO BE MY ROOMMATE DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO BE SARCASTIC.

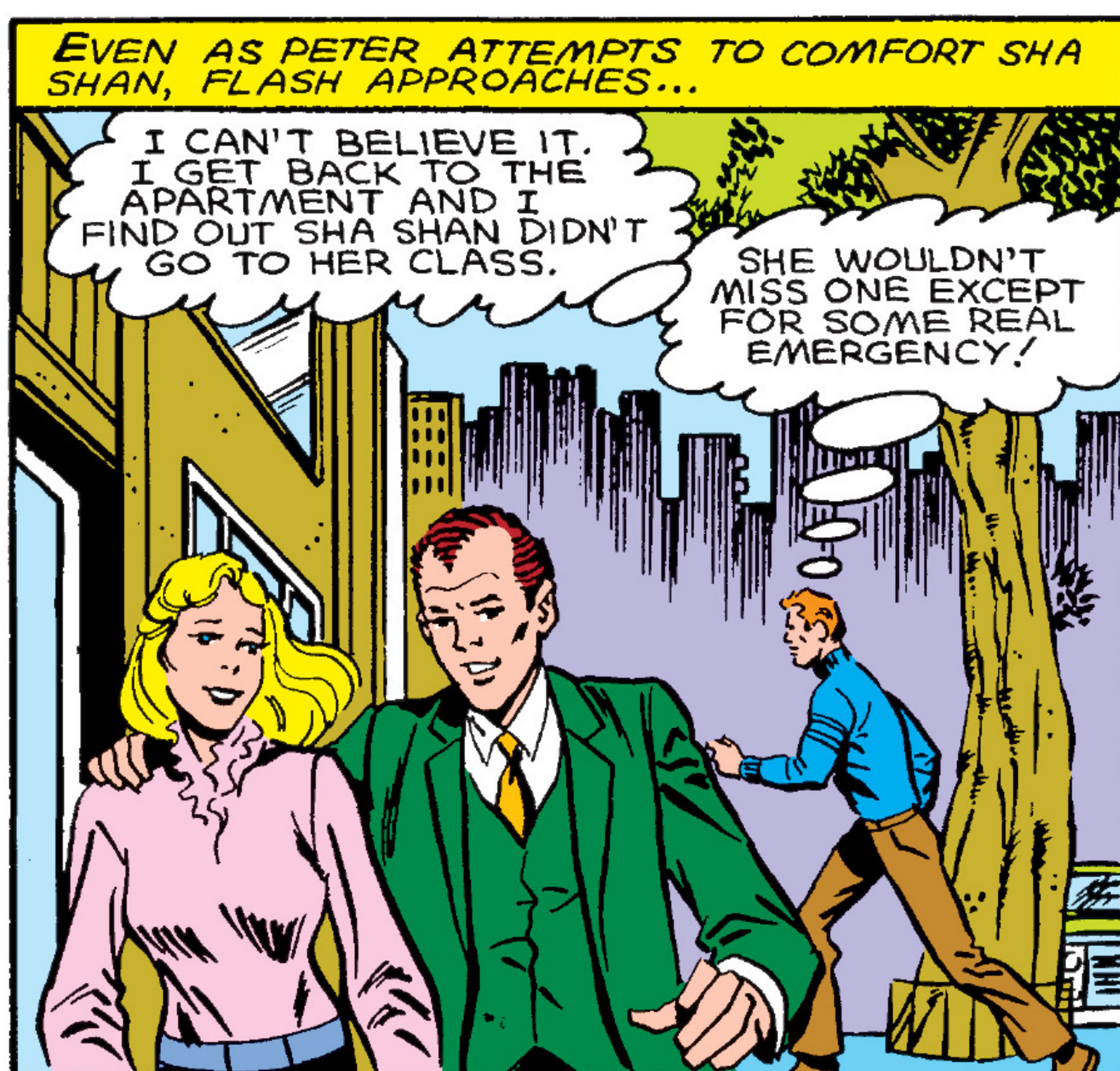
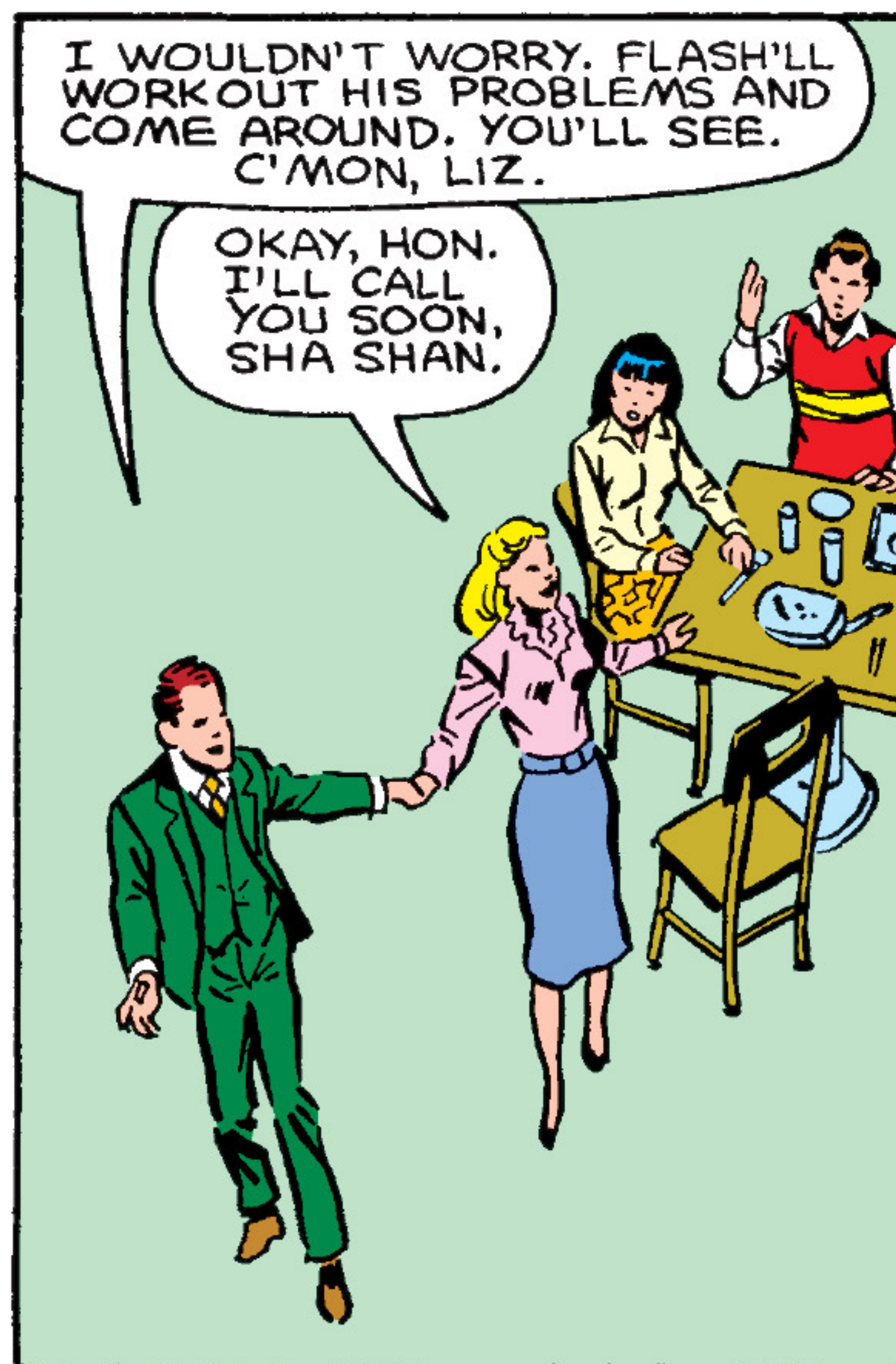
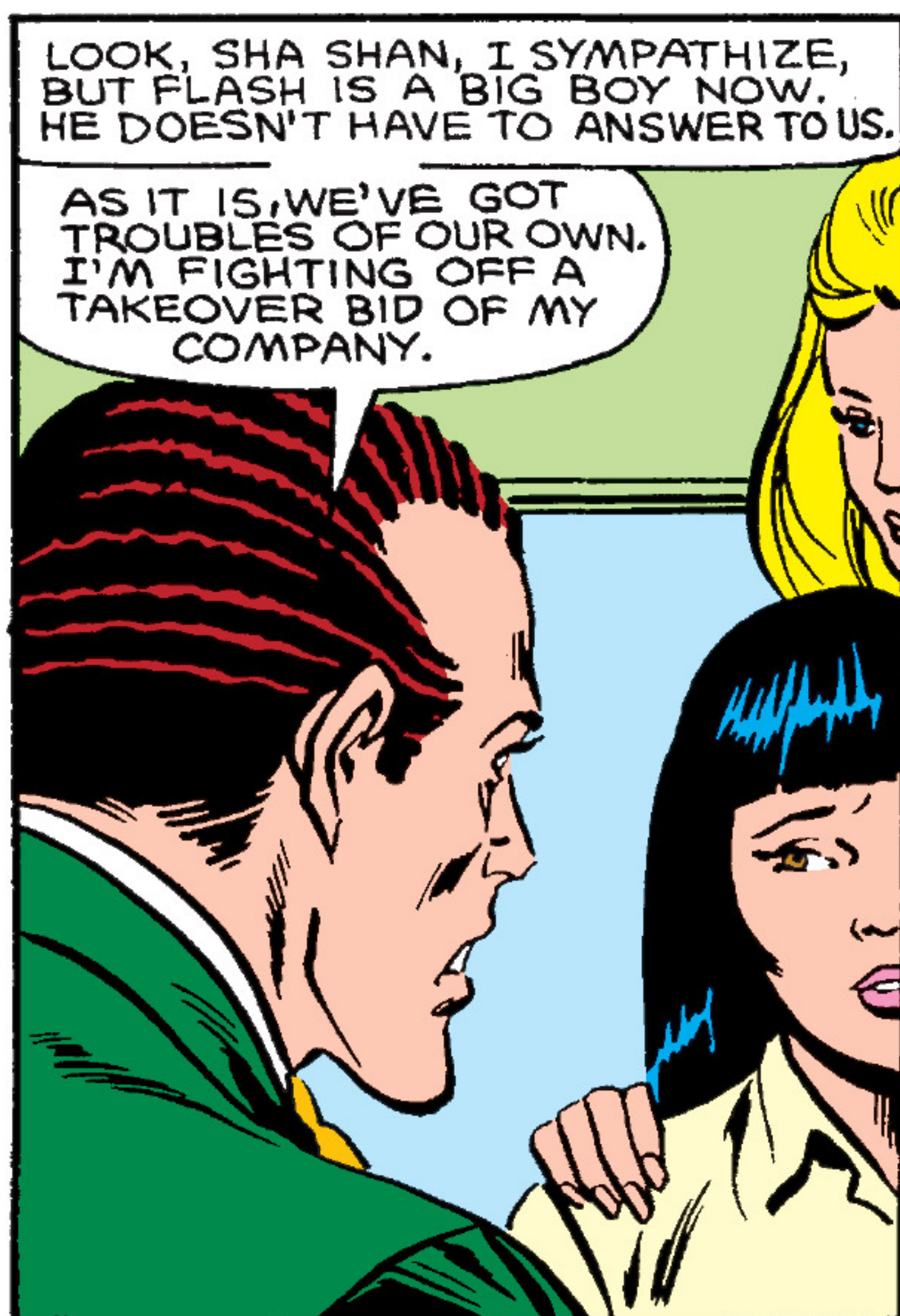
BESIDES, I'VE HEARD THAT THIS PLACE HAS THE HOTTEST CHILI IN TOWN!

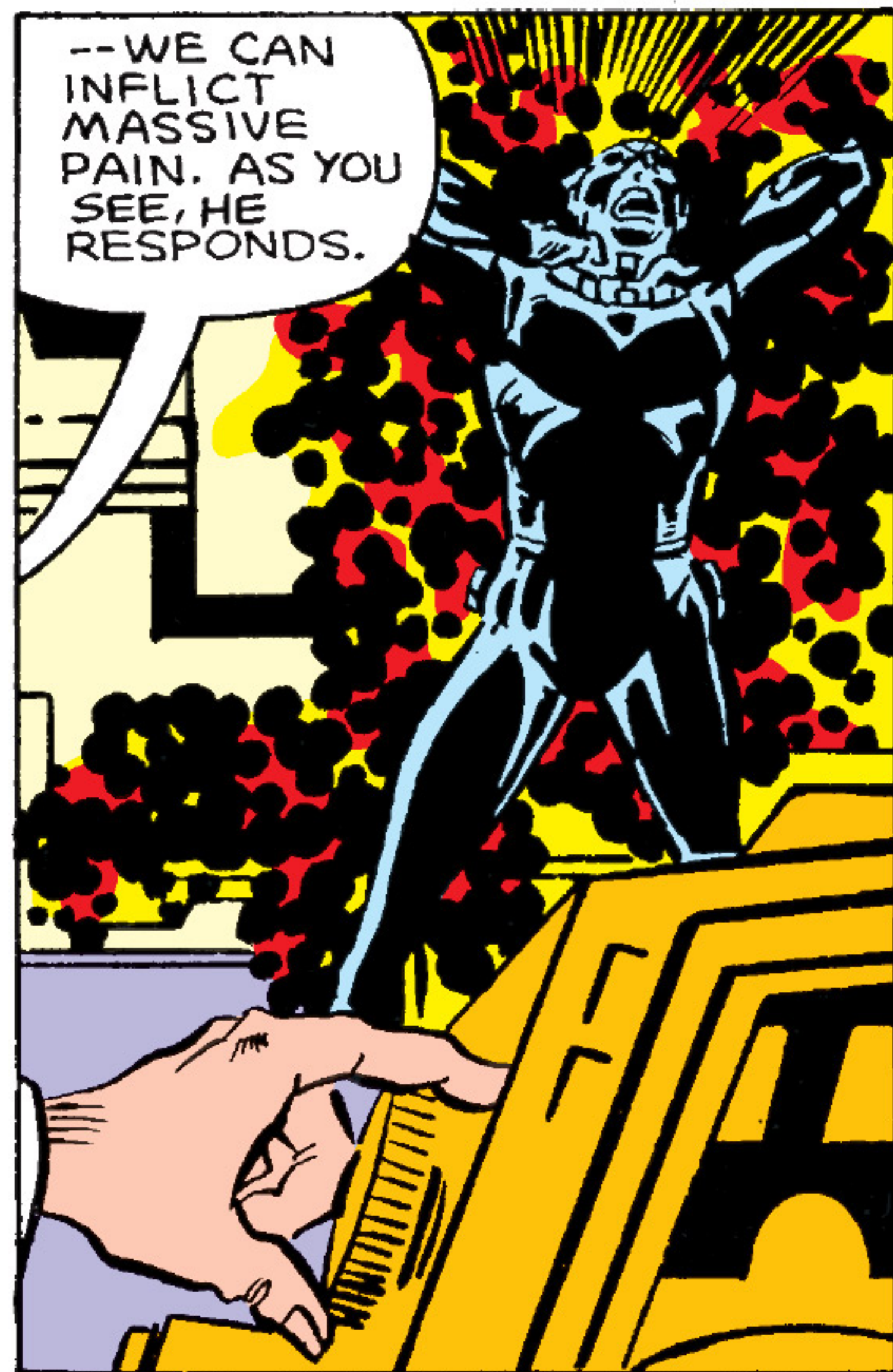
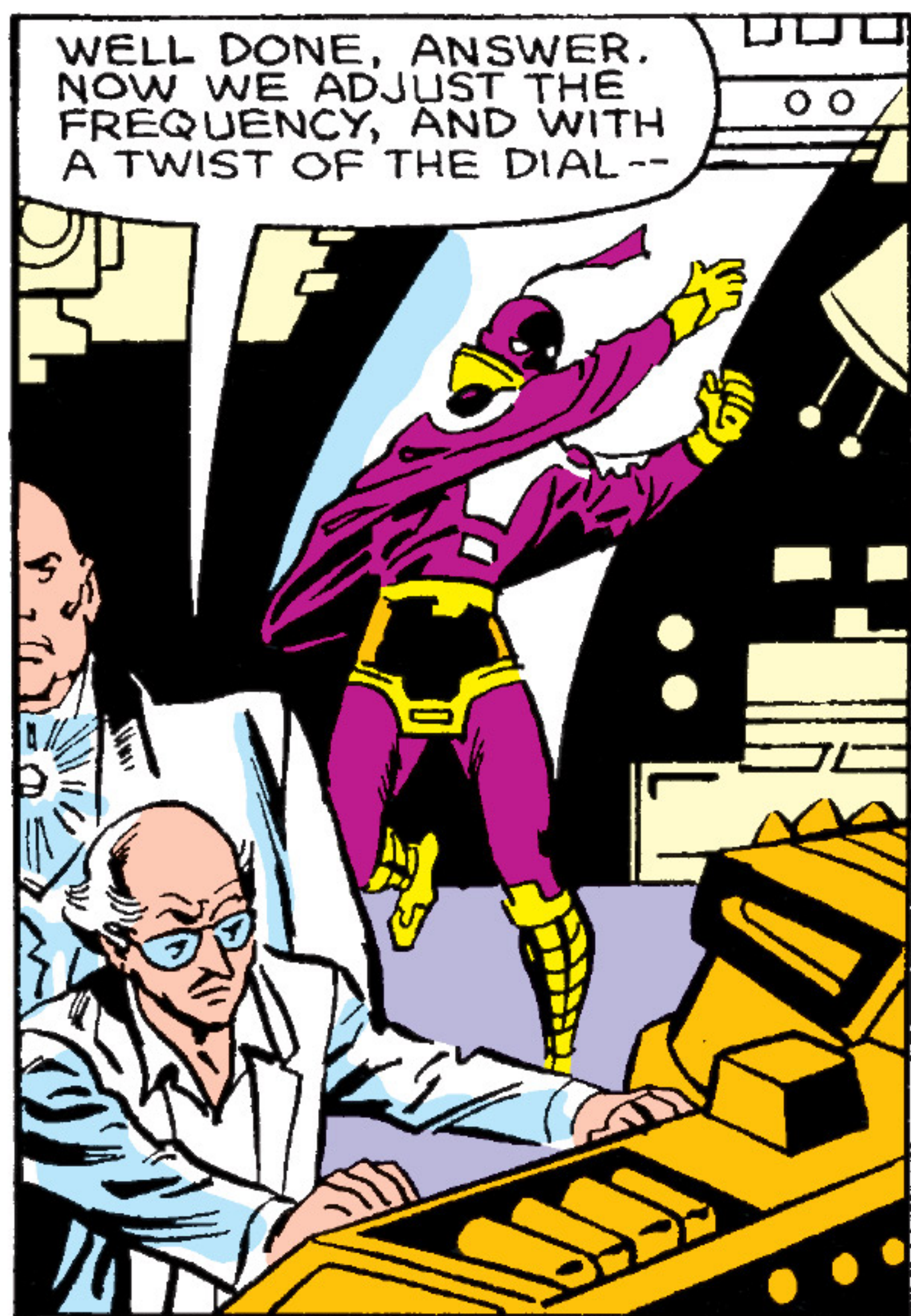
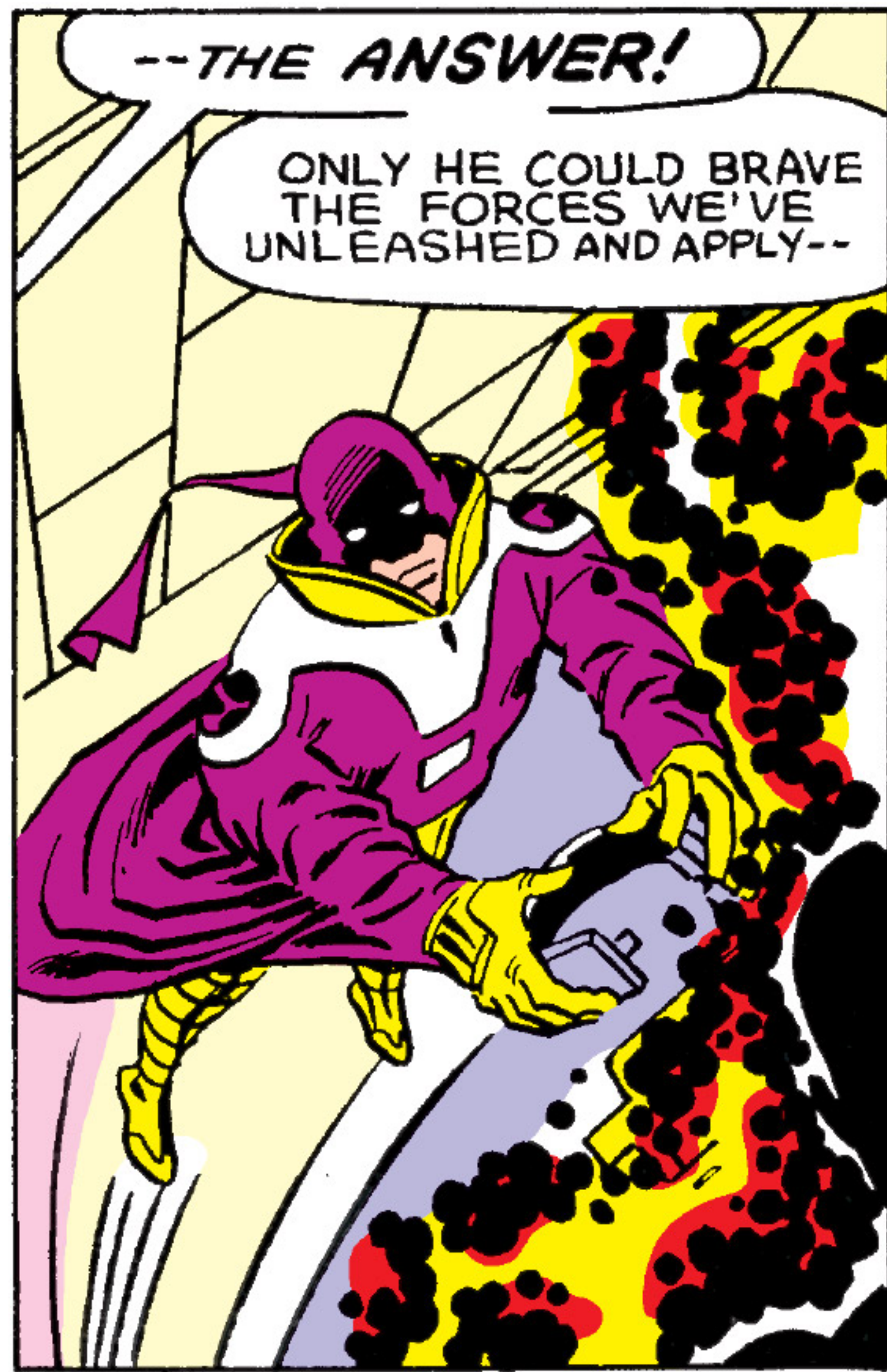
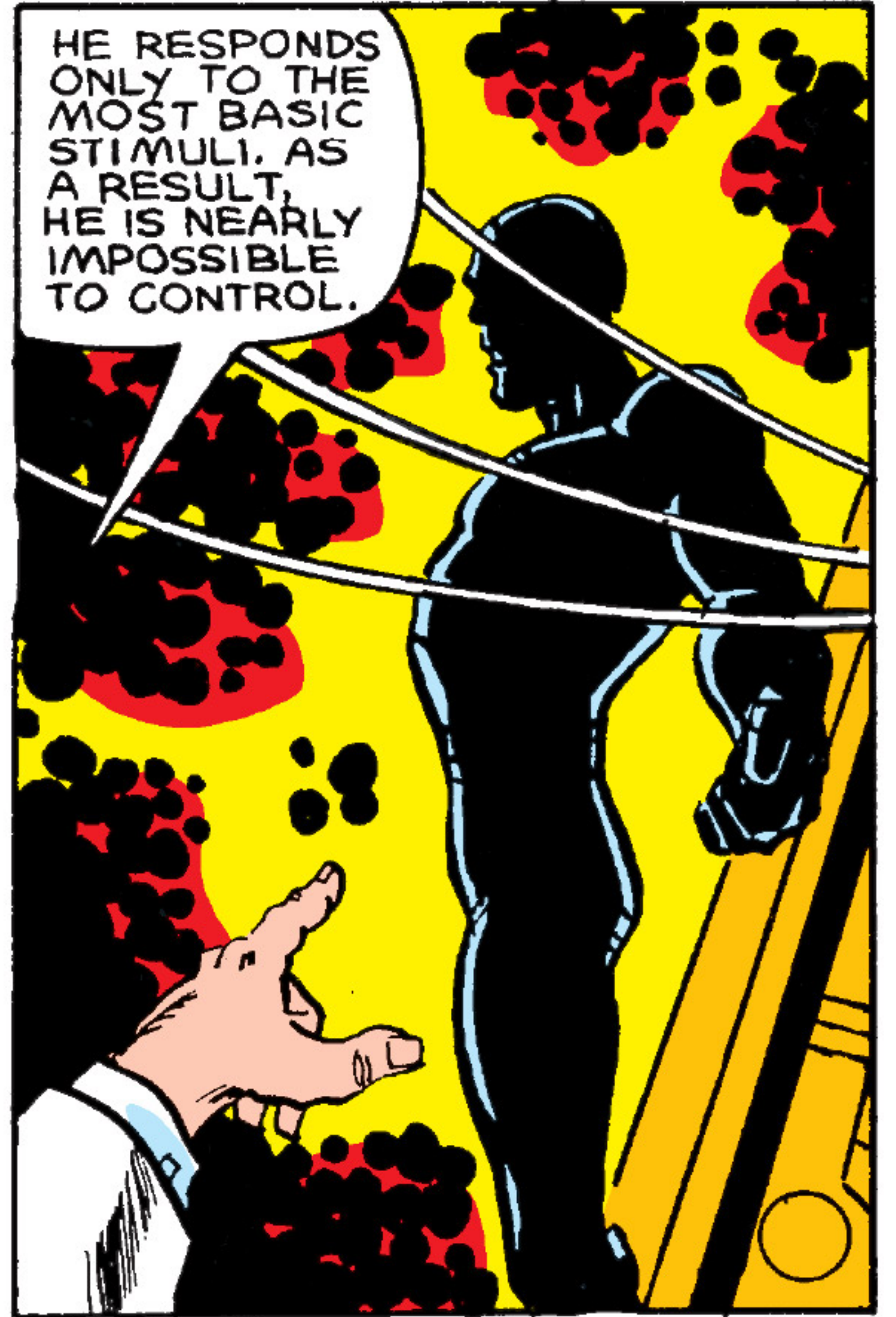
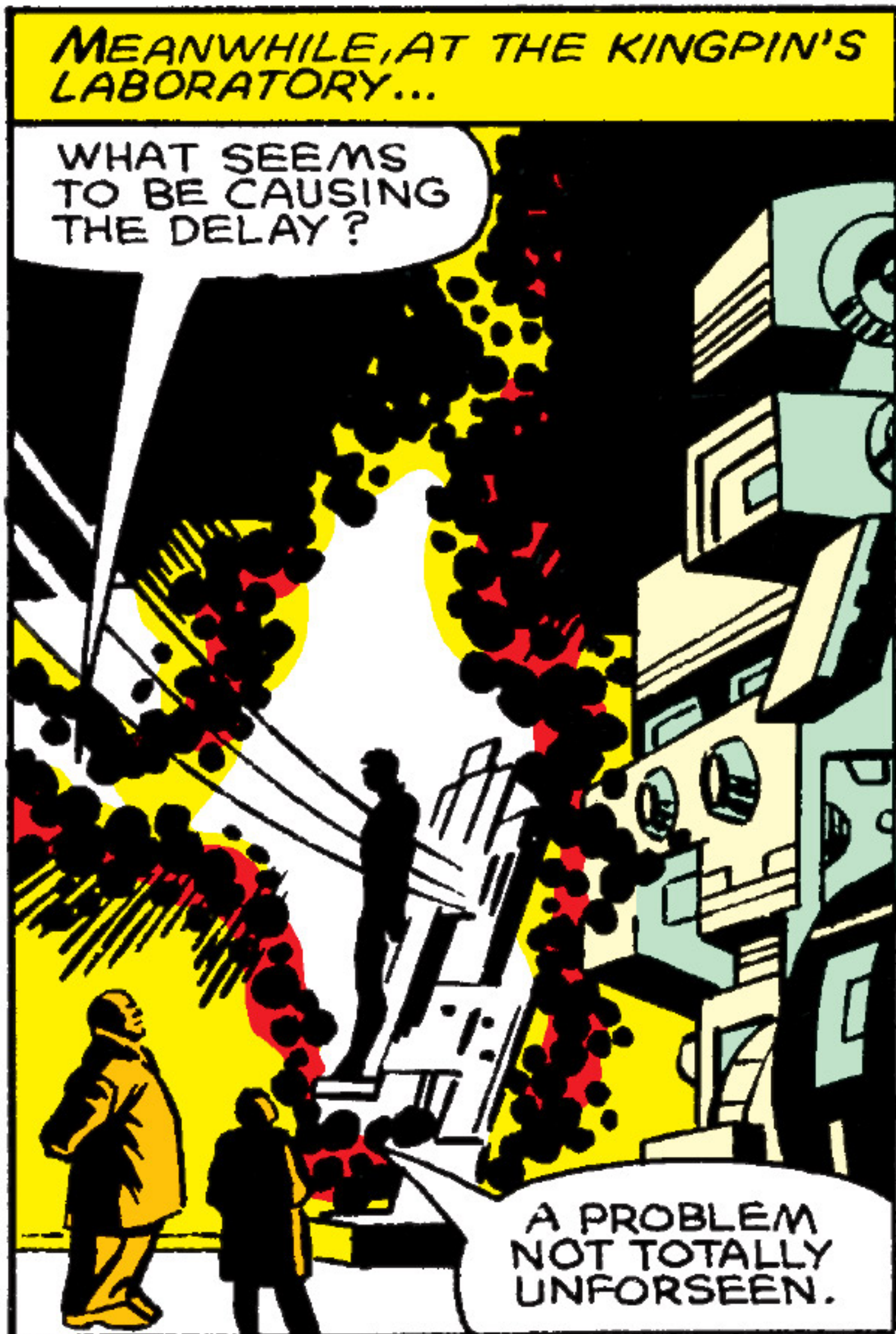


THERE'S SHA SHAN NOW.

PETER, HARRY, LIZ... I AM SO GLAD YOU COULD COME.







WHILE THE KINGPIN SETS HIS MACHINATIONS INTO MOTION, PETER PARKER, HAVING PARTED FROM A TROUBLED SHA SHAN, NEARS HIS APARTMENT BUILDING...



WELL, I GUESS THAT GOES TO SHOW I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH PROBLEMS. THERE'S A LESSON THERE SOMEWHERE.

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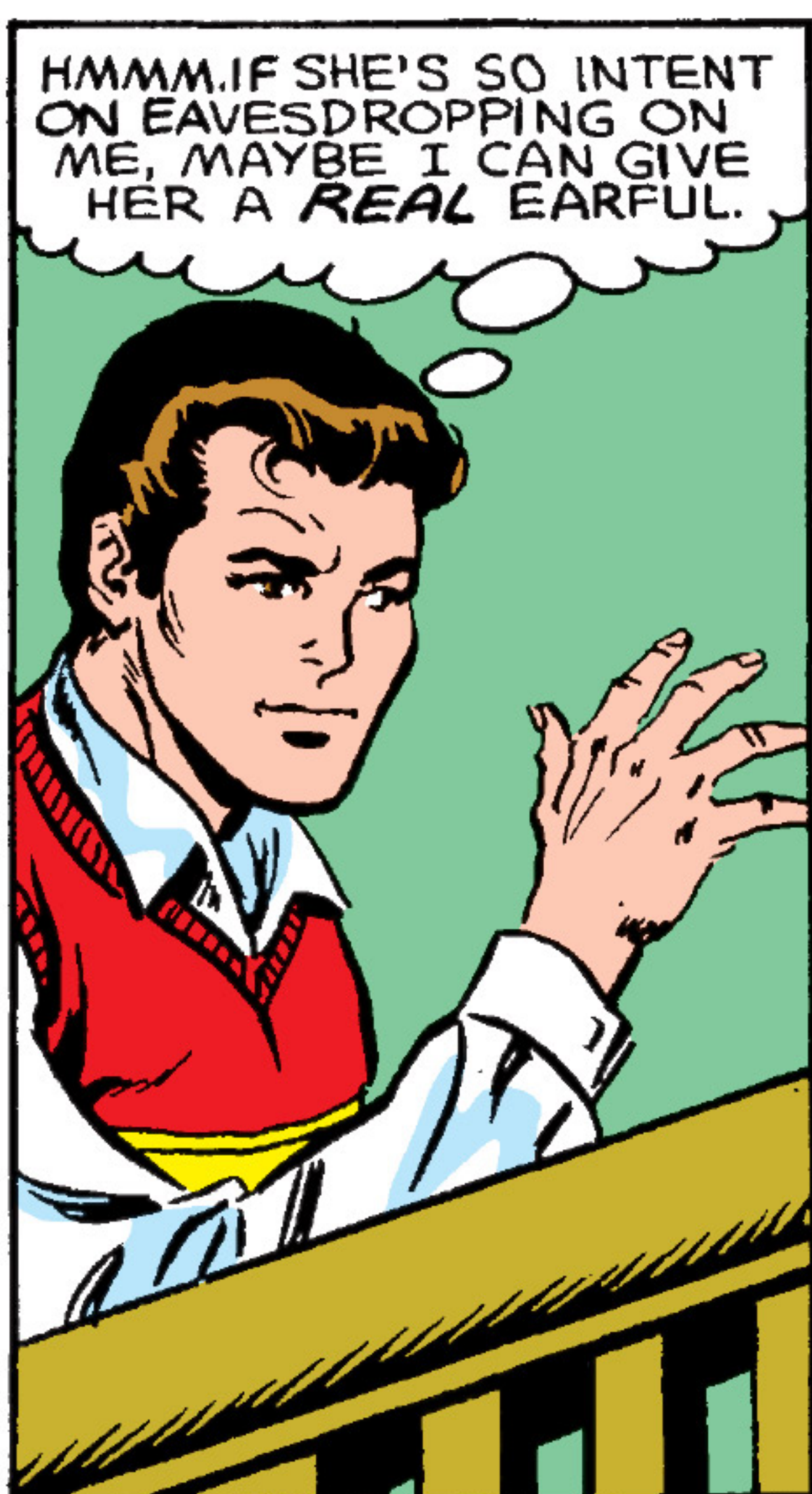
RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, ALL I WANT TO DO IS GO SEE FELICIA AND TRY TO WORK OUT MY TROUBLES WITH HER!



HEY! WHAT'S MY LANDLADY DOING SNOOPING AROUND MY DOOR?

THAT PARKER AND HIS CRAZY GIRLFRIEND --WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO? I HEARD SOME AWFUL LOUD NOISES IN HERE LAST NIGHT.

I WARNED HIM I RUN A NO-NONSENSE BUILDING HERE!



HMMM. IF SHE'S SO INTENT ON EAVESDROPPING ON ME, MAYBE I CAN GIVE HER A **REAL** EARFUL.



FIRST, I'LL WILL MY COSTUME TO EXTEND MY SHIRTSLEEVE, TRANSFORMING IT INTO MY SPIDEY SUIT--



-- WHICH COMES EQUIPPED WITH ITS OWN HANDY-DANDY WEB-SHOOTER.

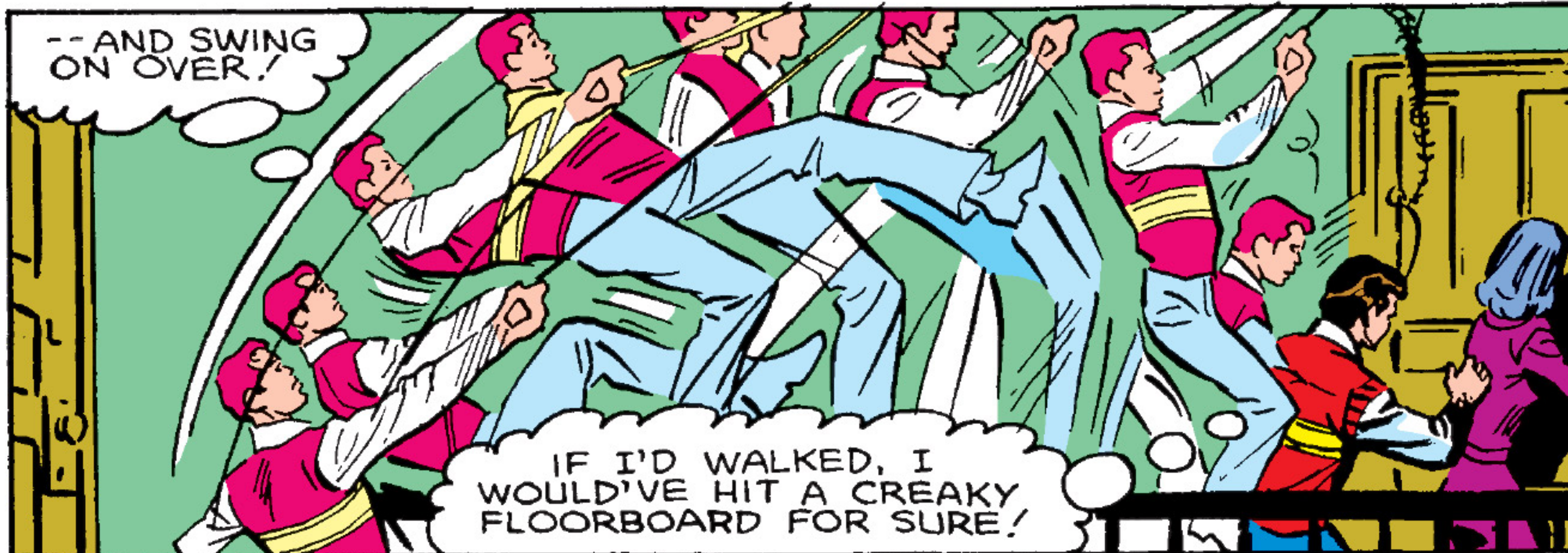


AND NOW--

PWIP



I'LL JUST SNAG THE CEILING ABOVE HER--



-- AND SWING ON OVER!

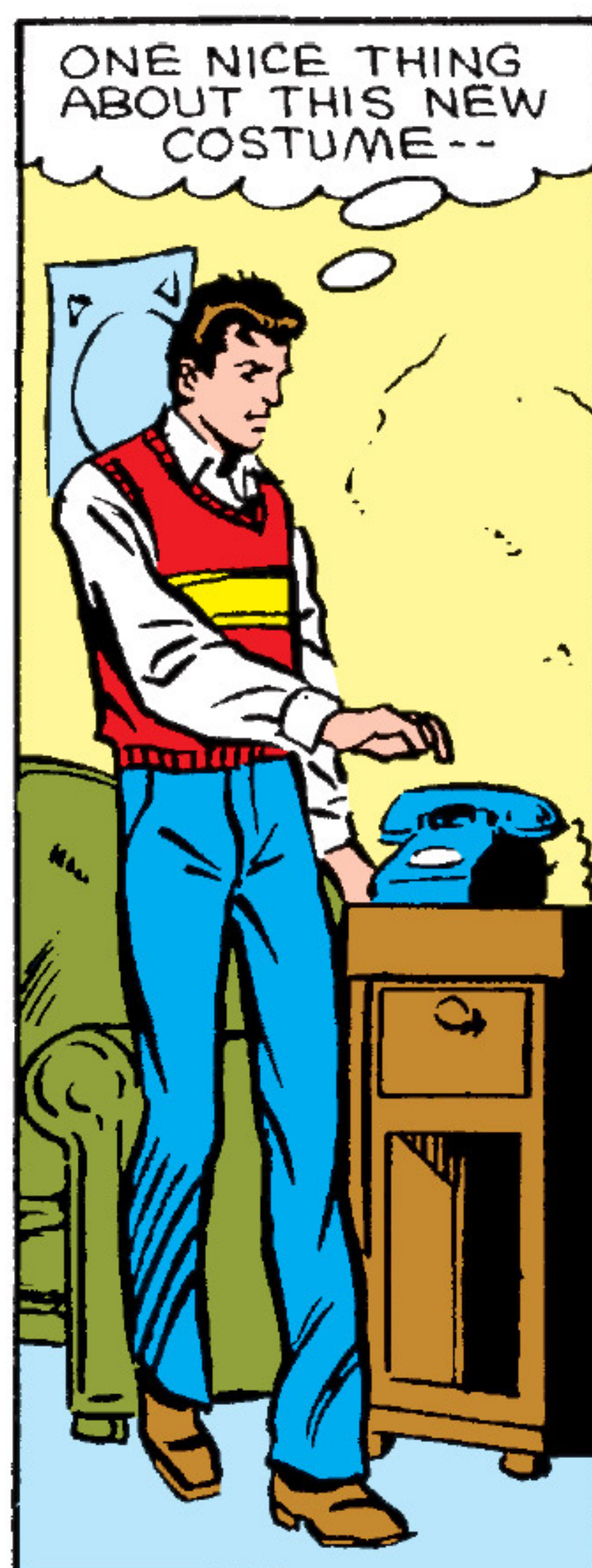
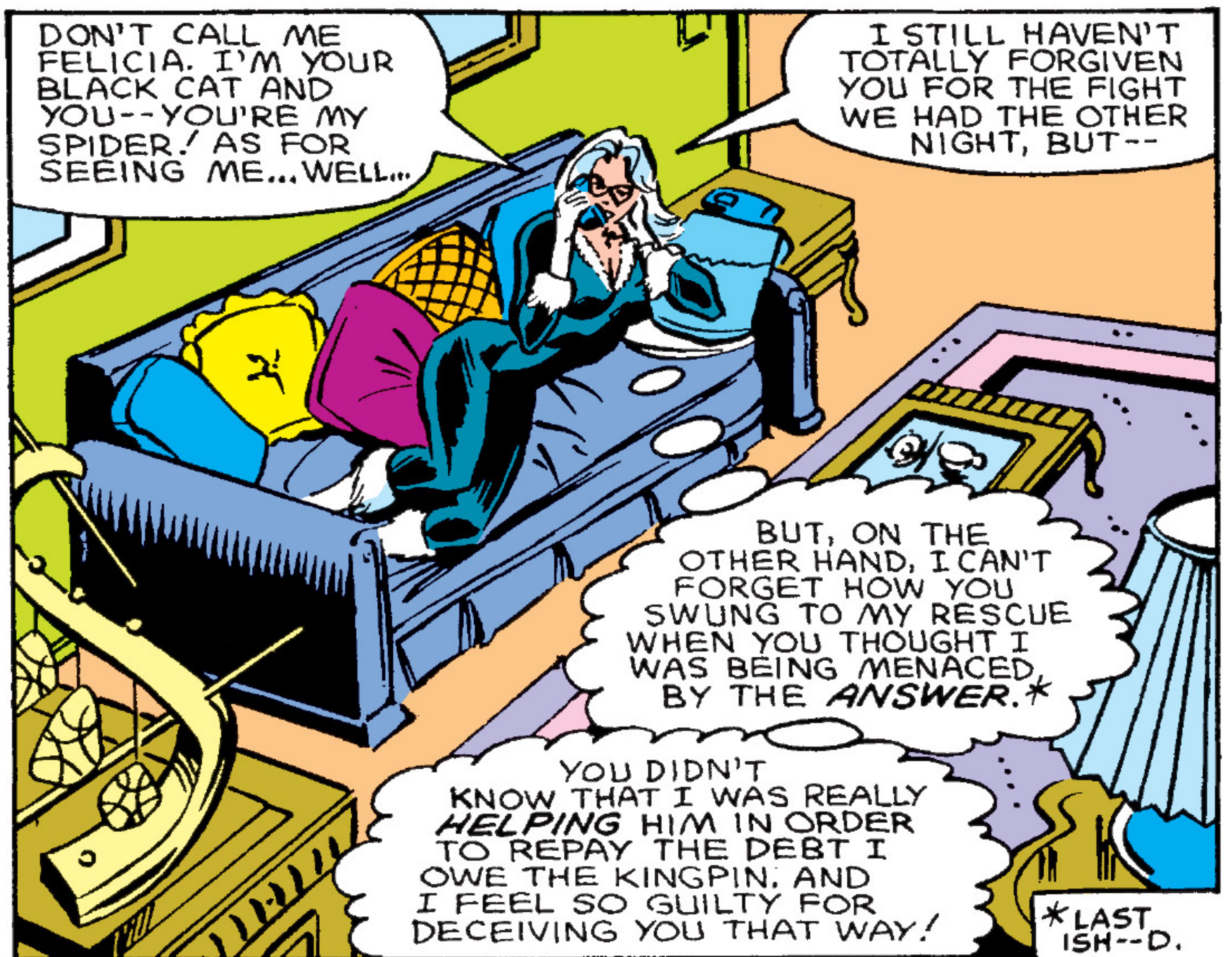
IF I'D WALKED, I WOULD'VE HIT A CREAKY FLOORBOARD FOR SURE!

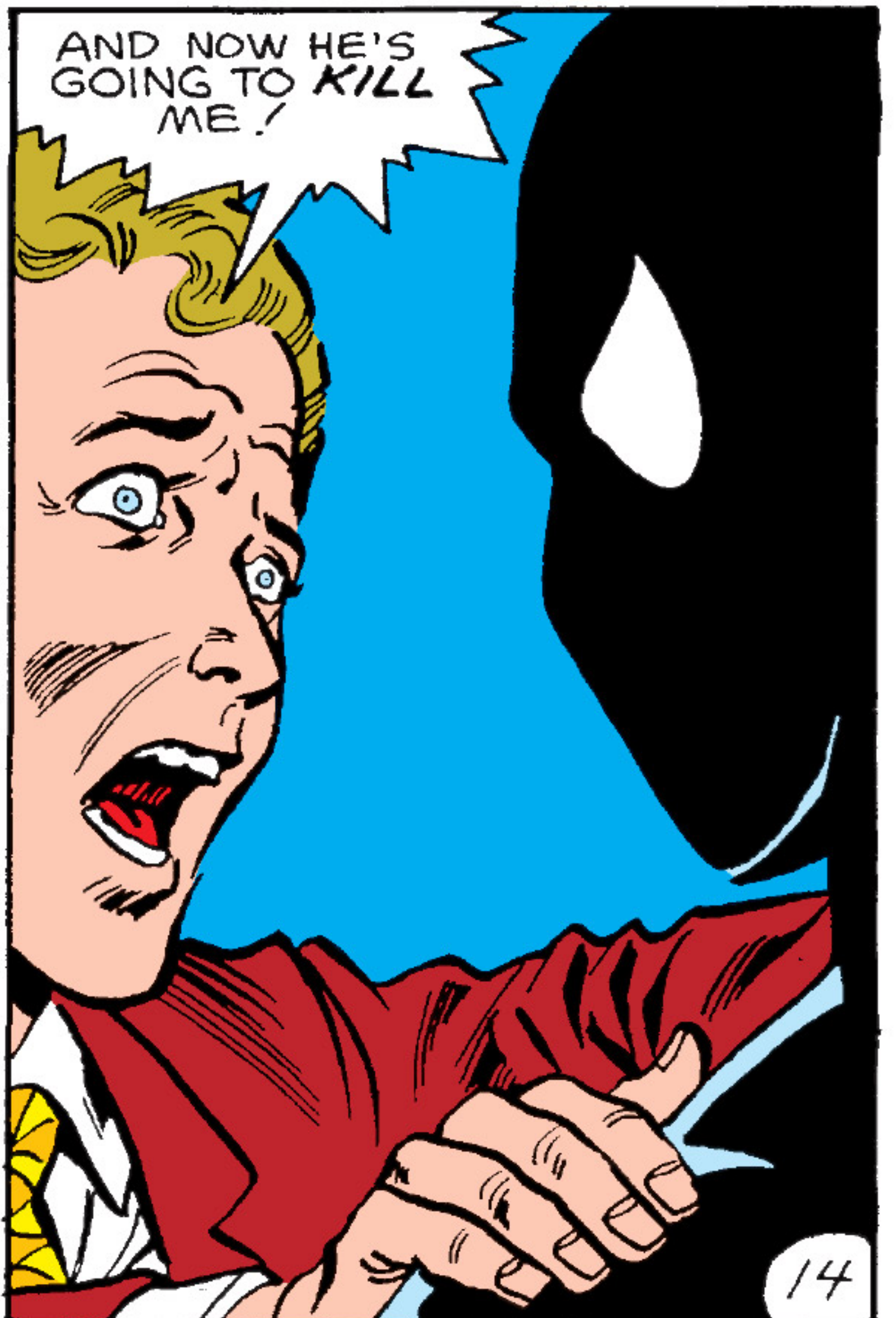
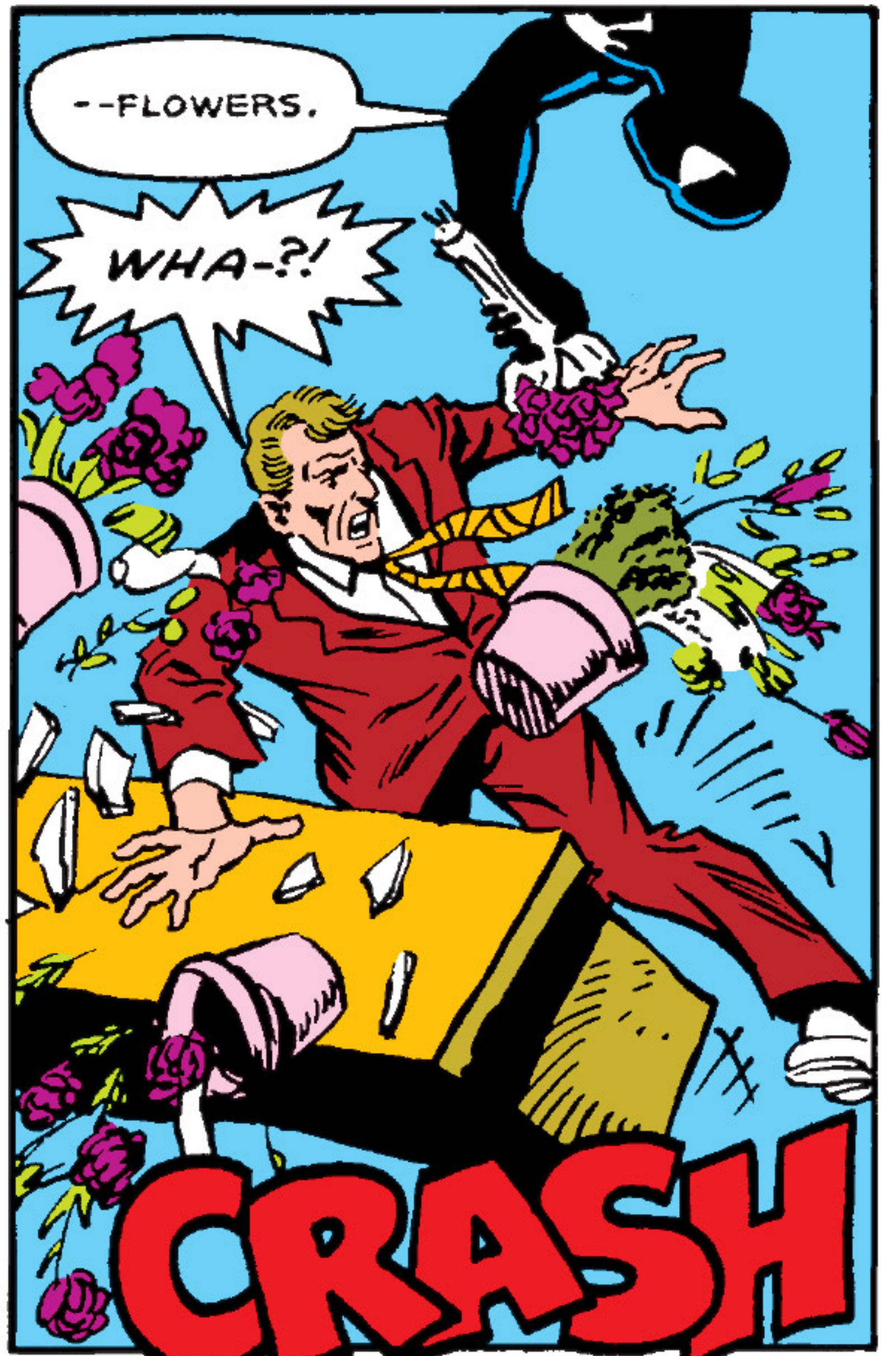
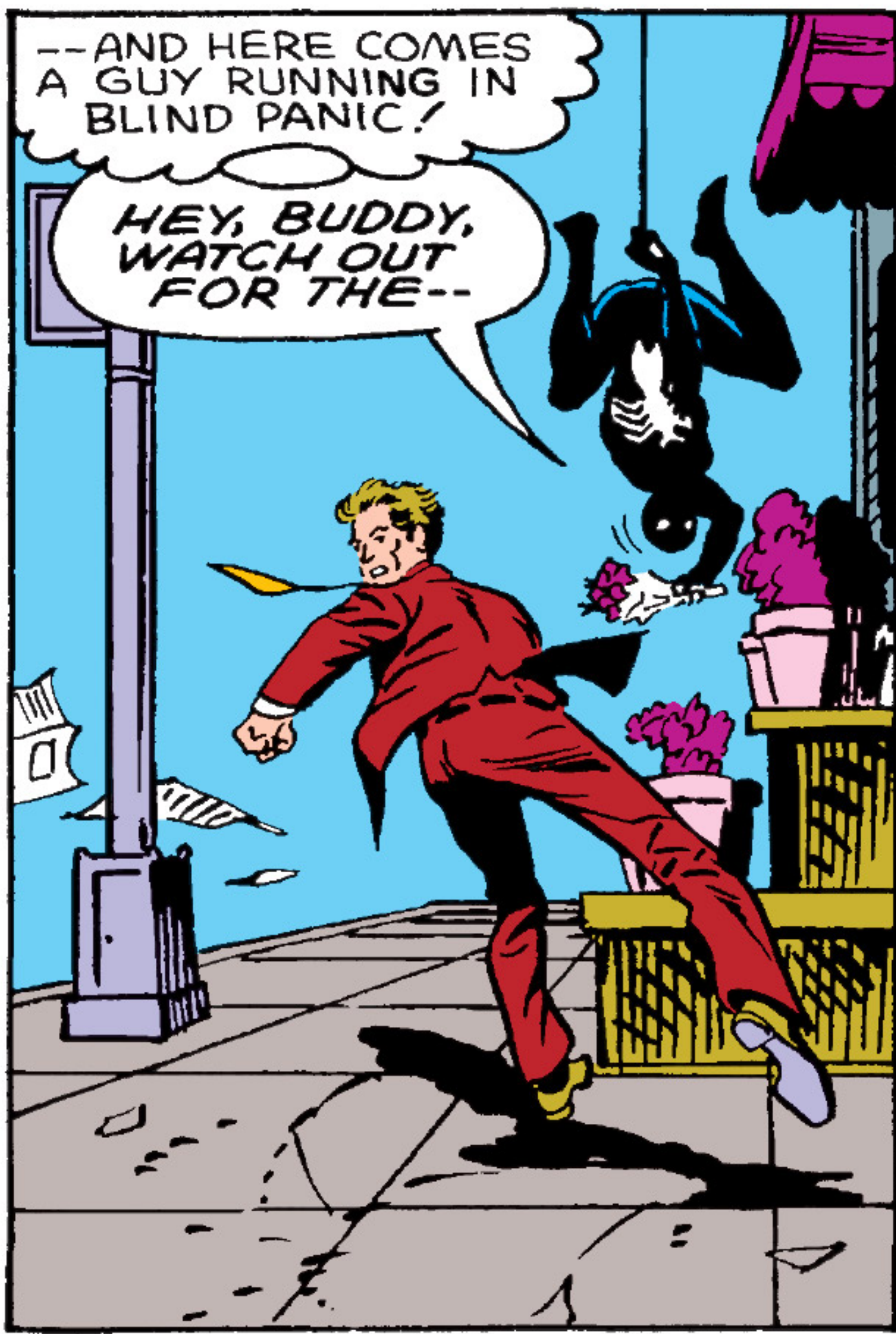
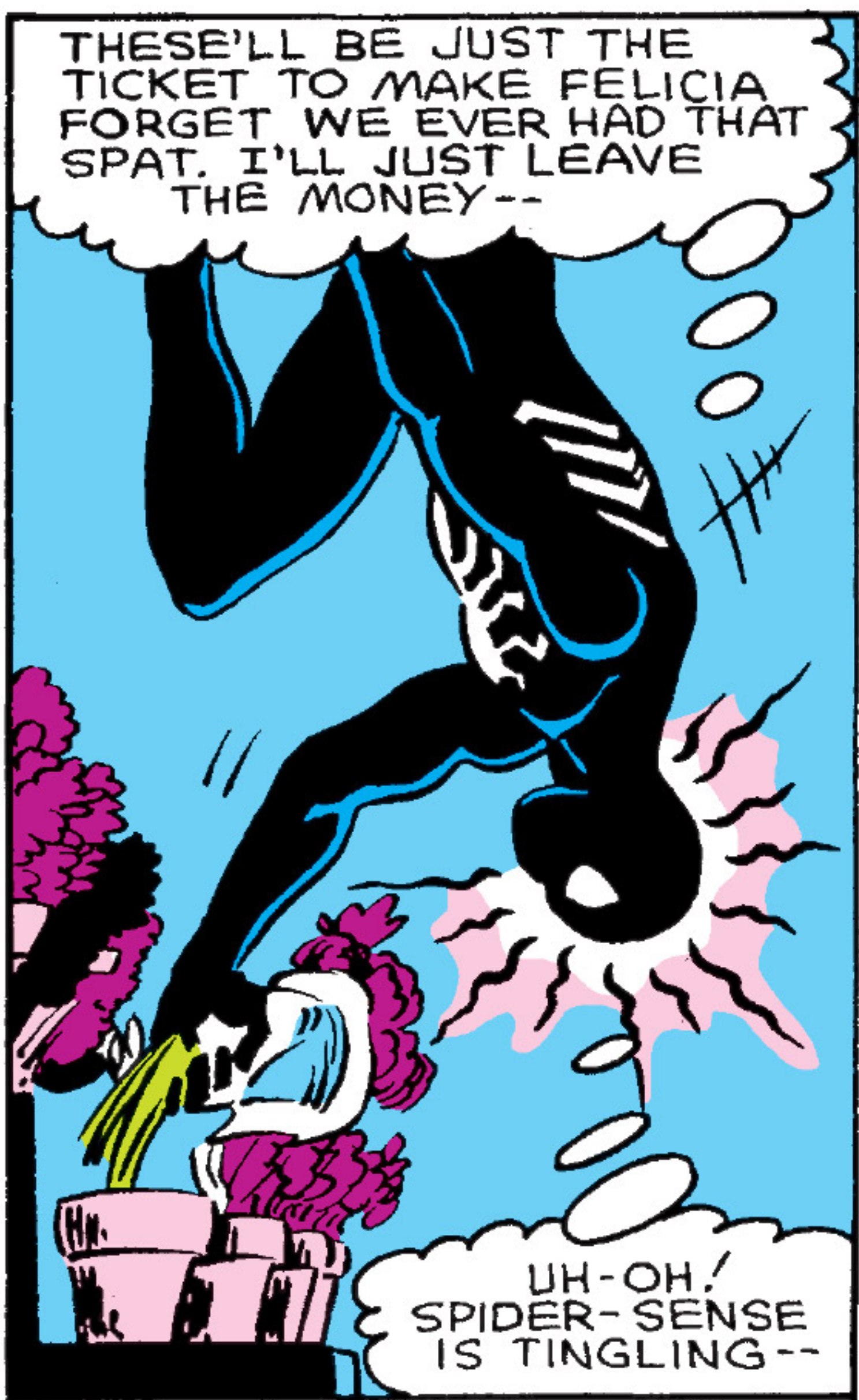
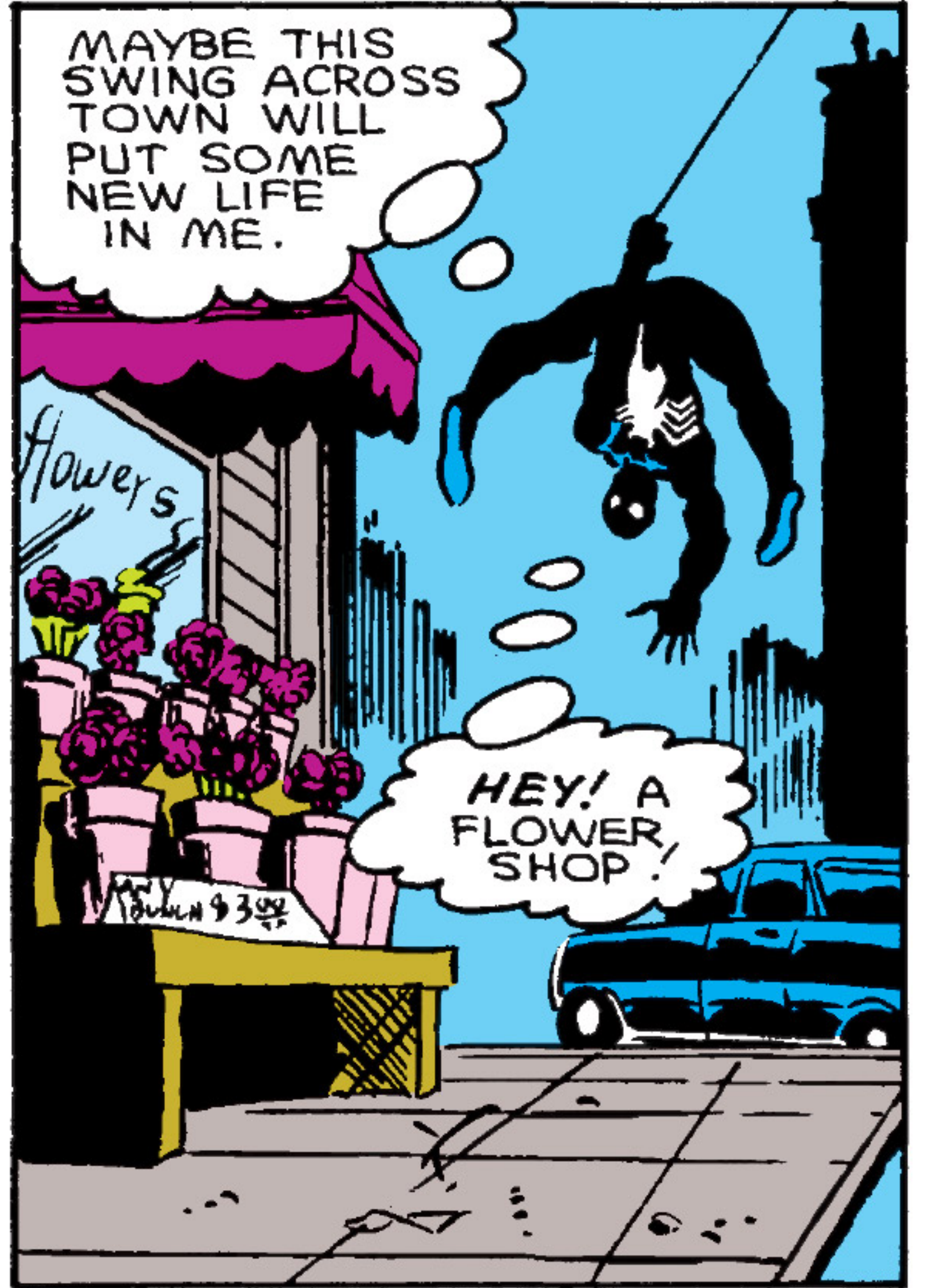
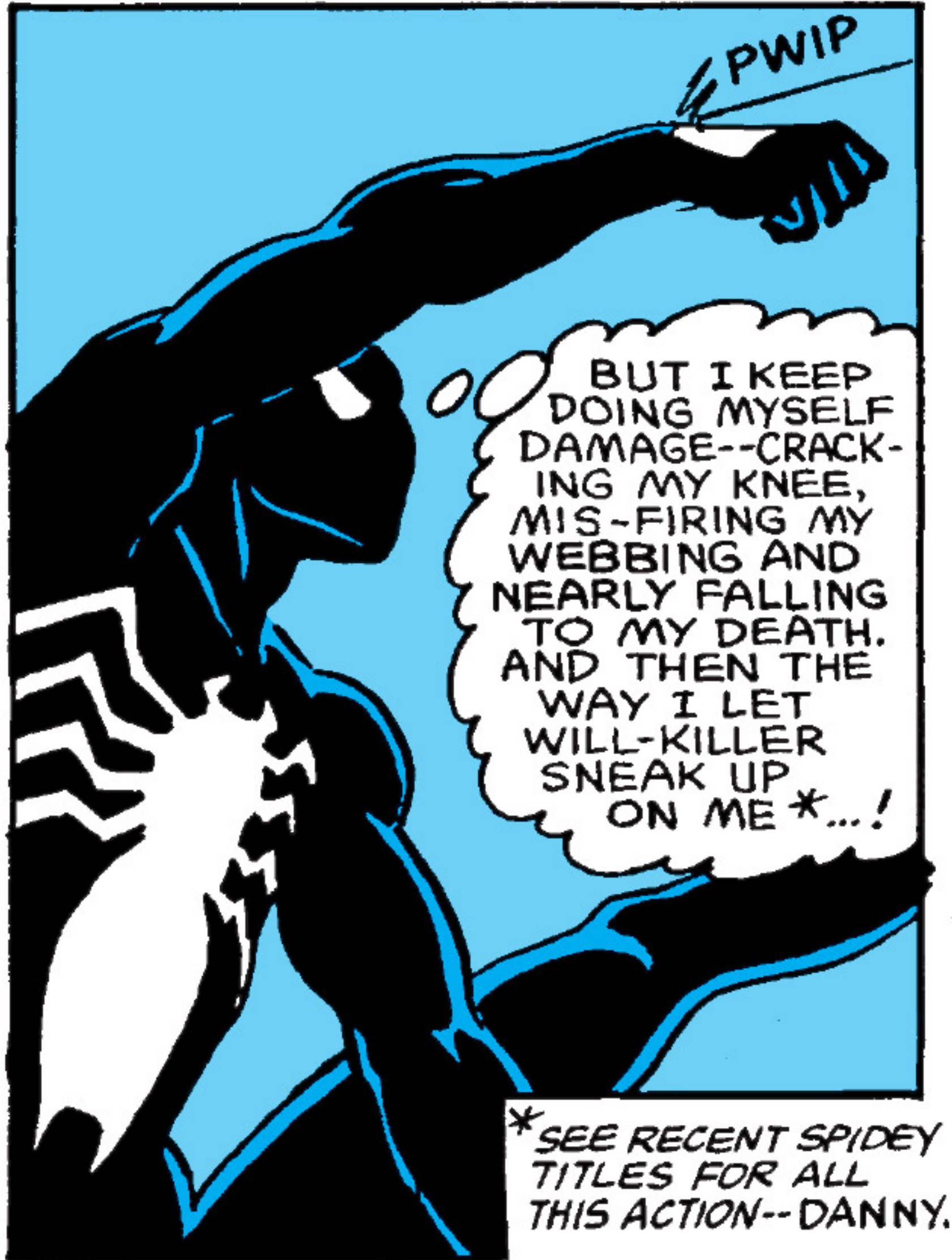
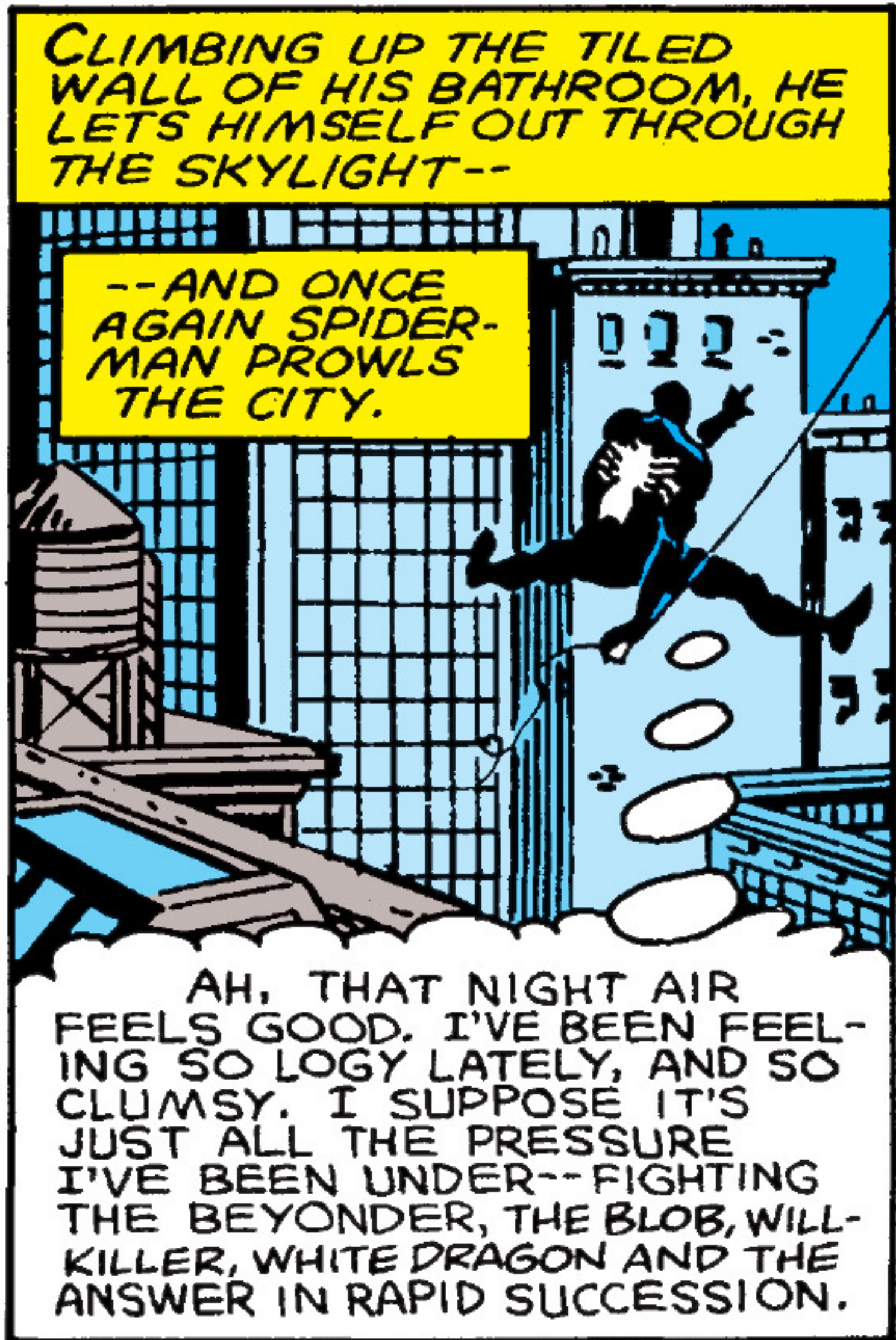


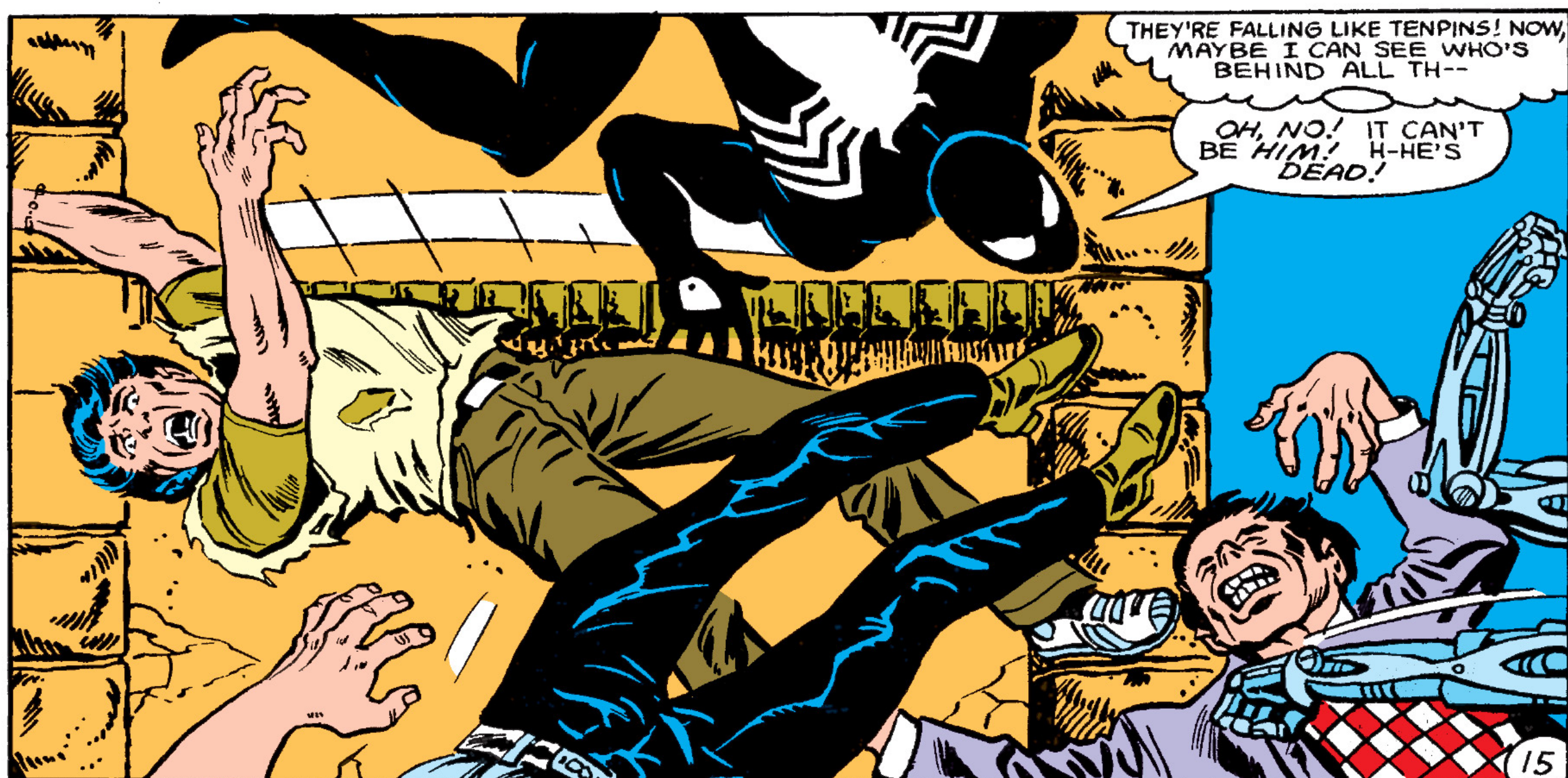
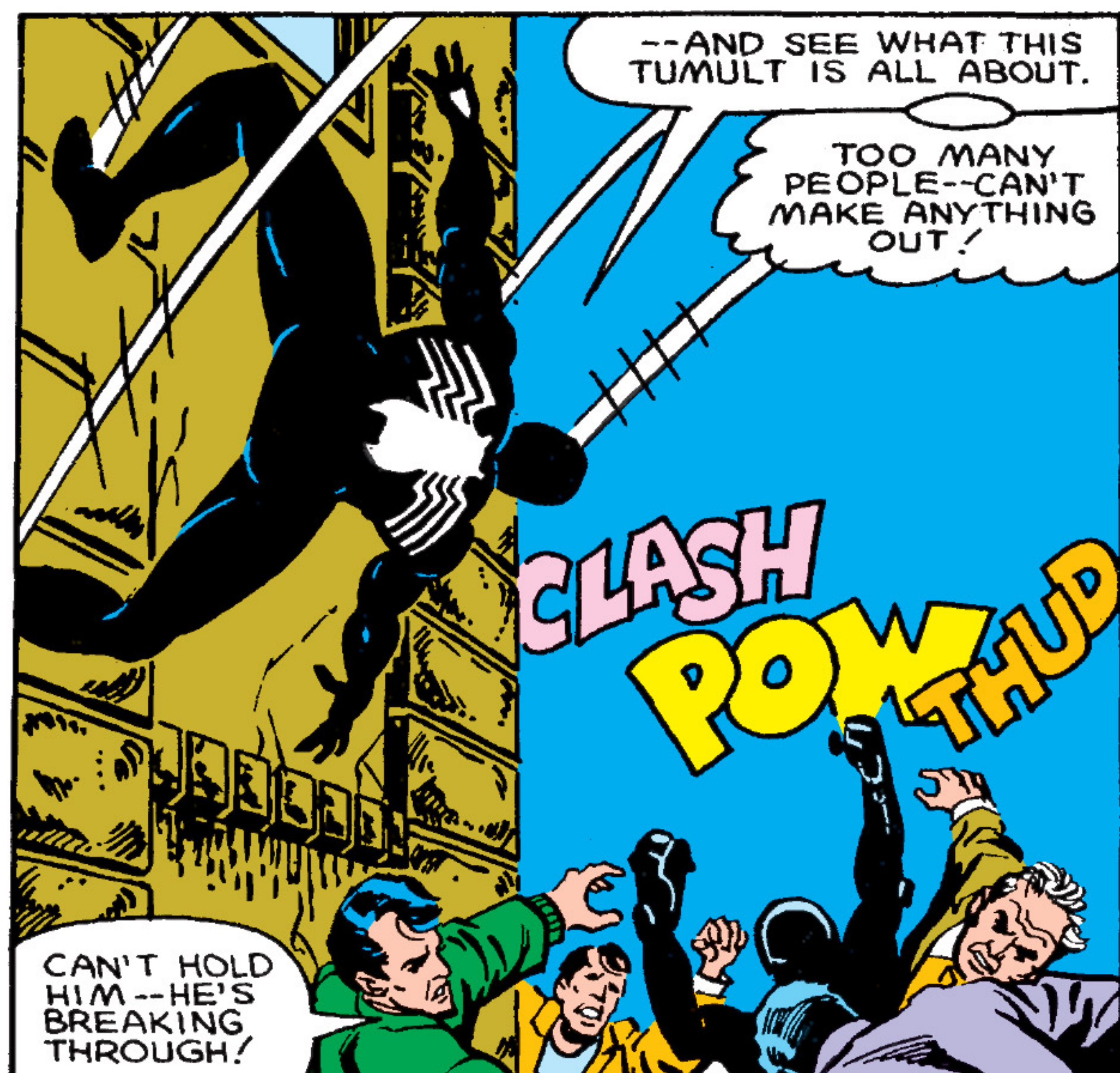
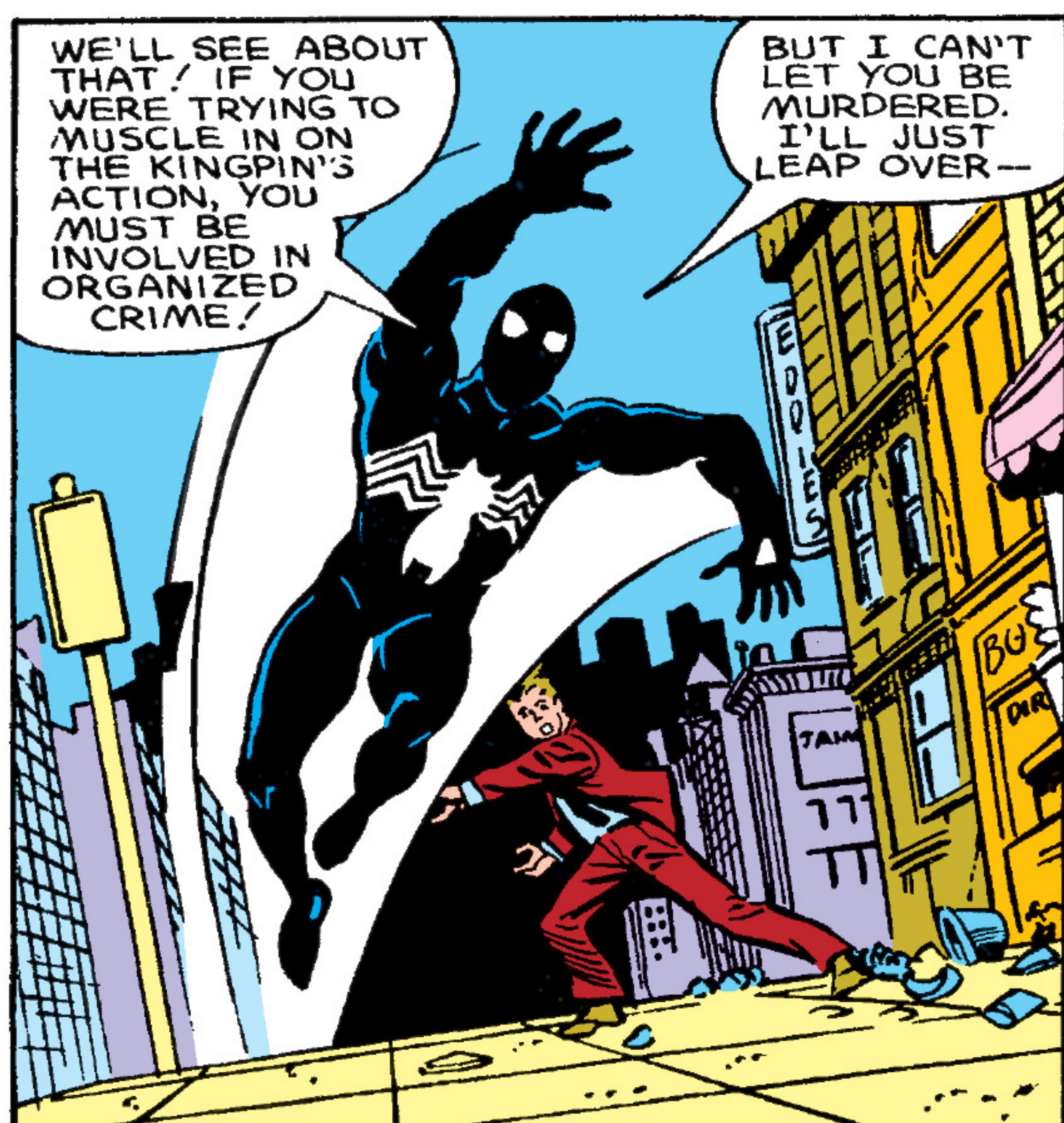
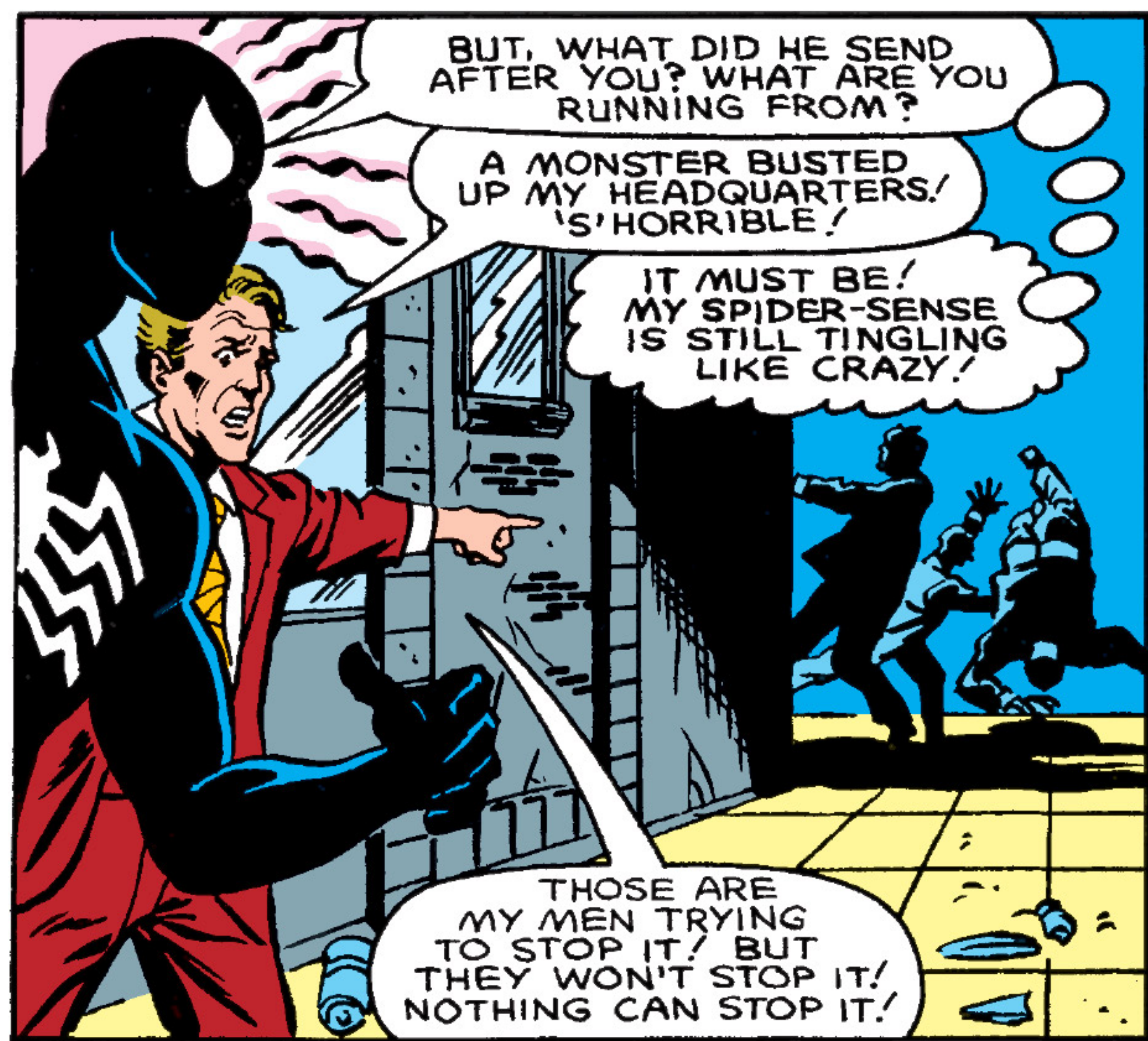
CAN I HELP YOU?

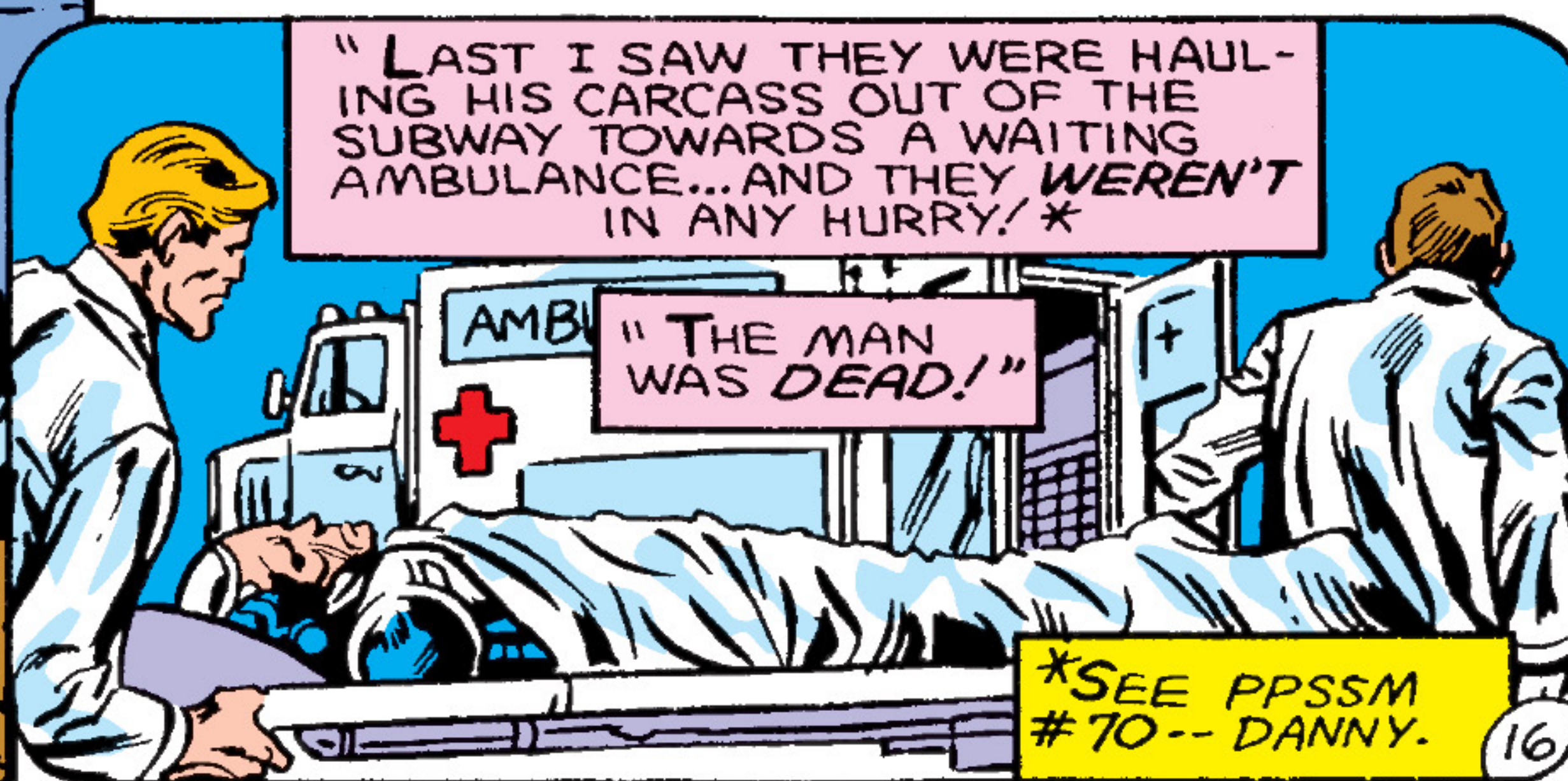
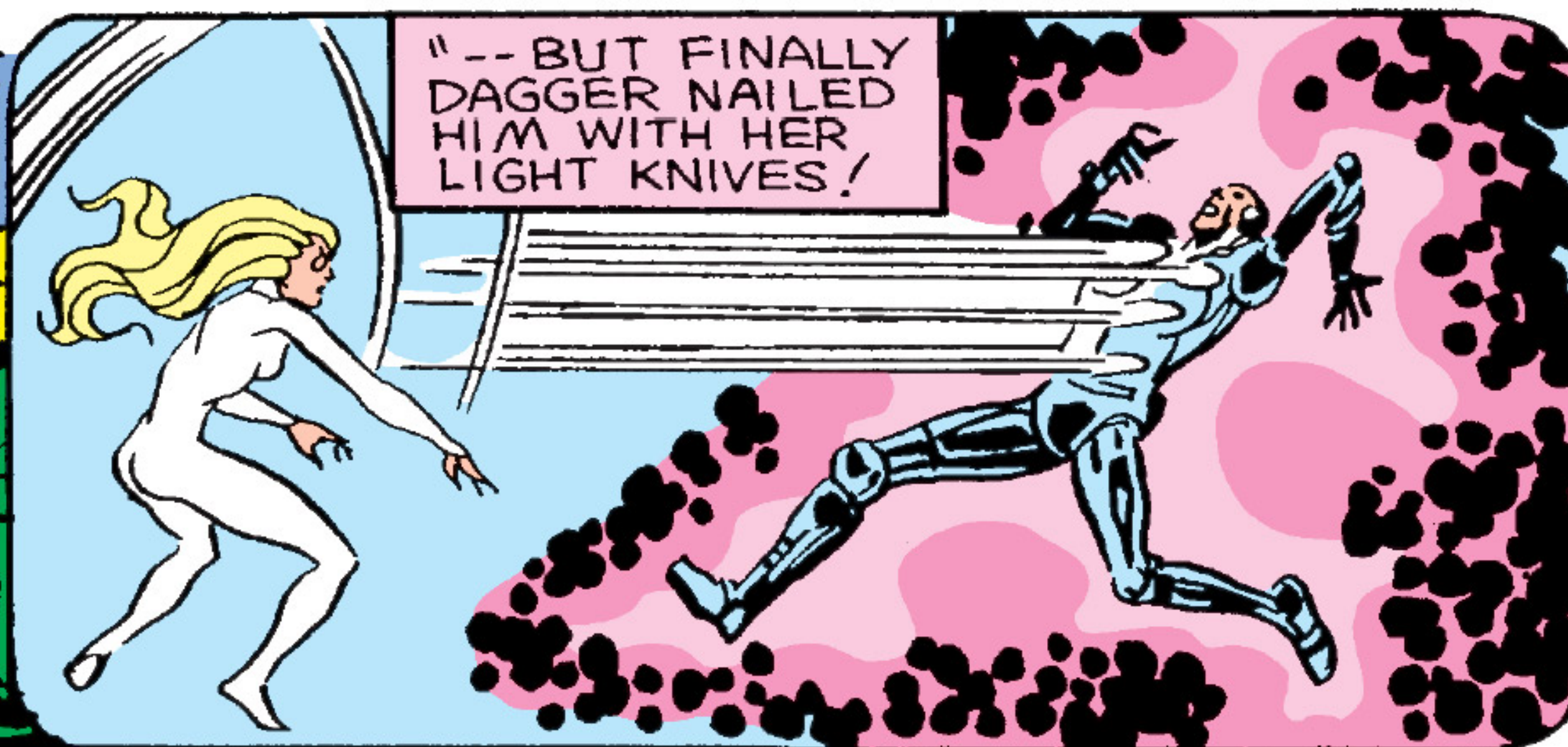
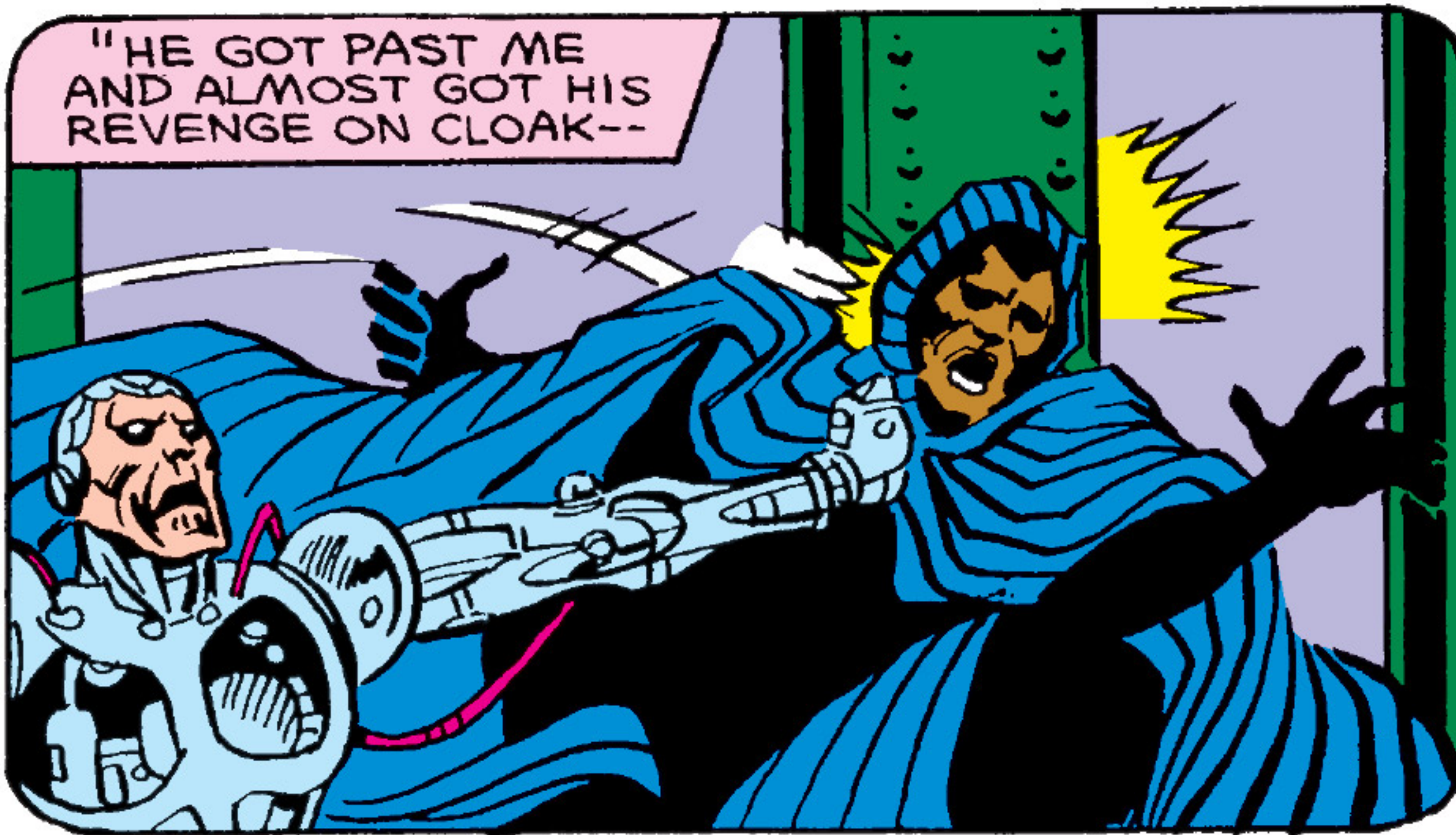
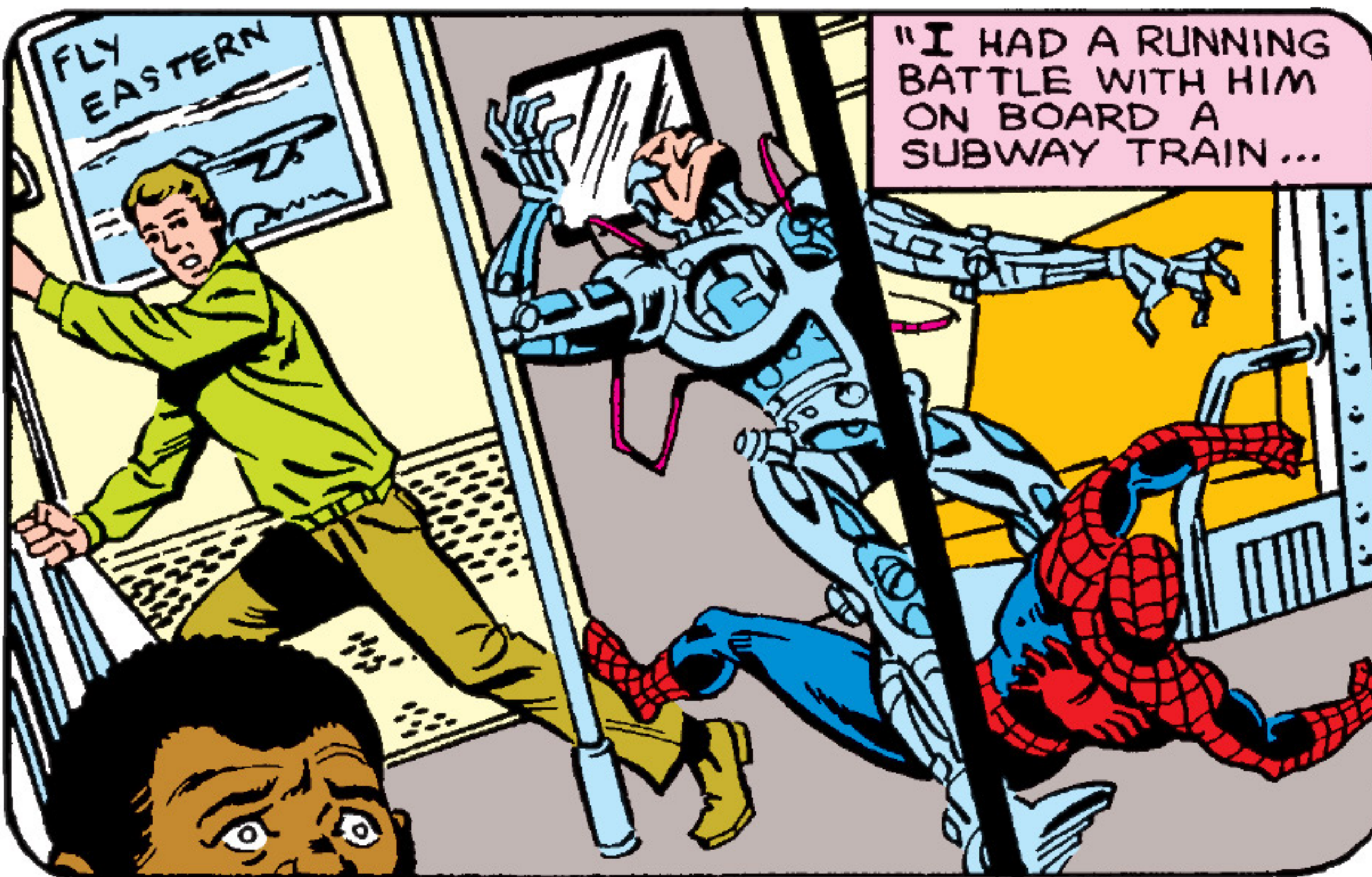
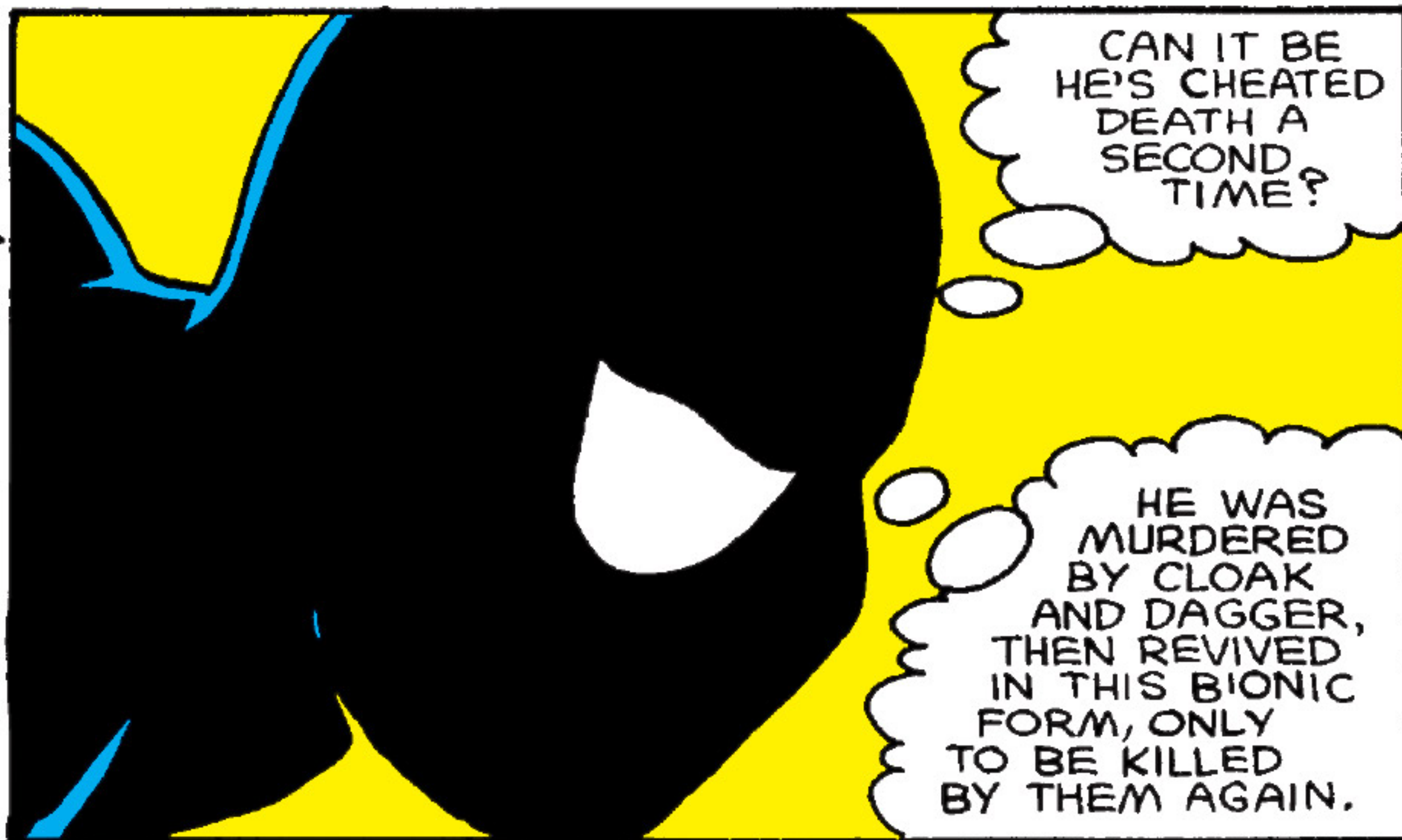
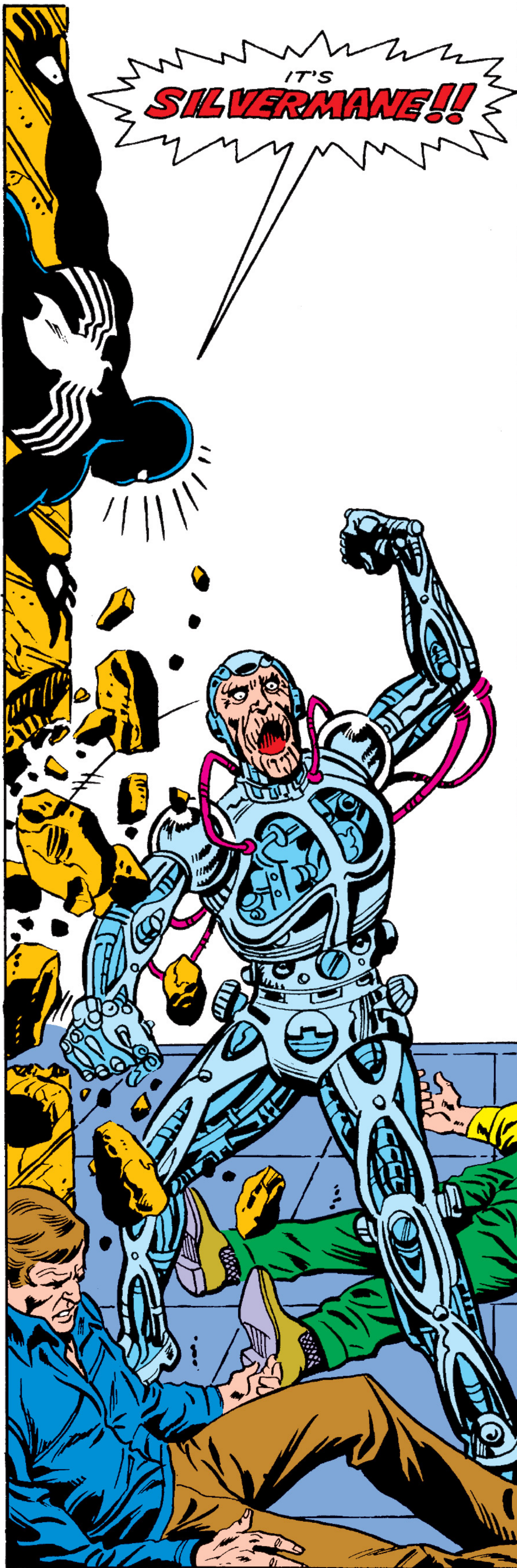
YEOW!!

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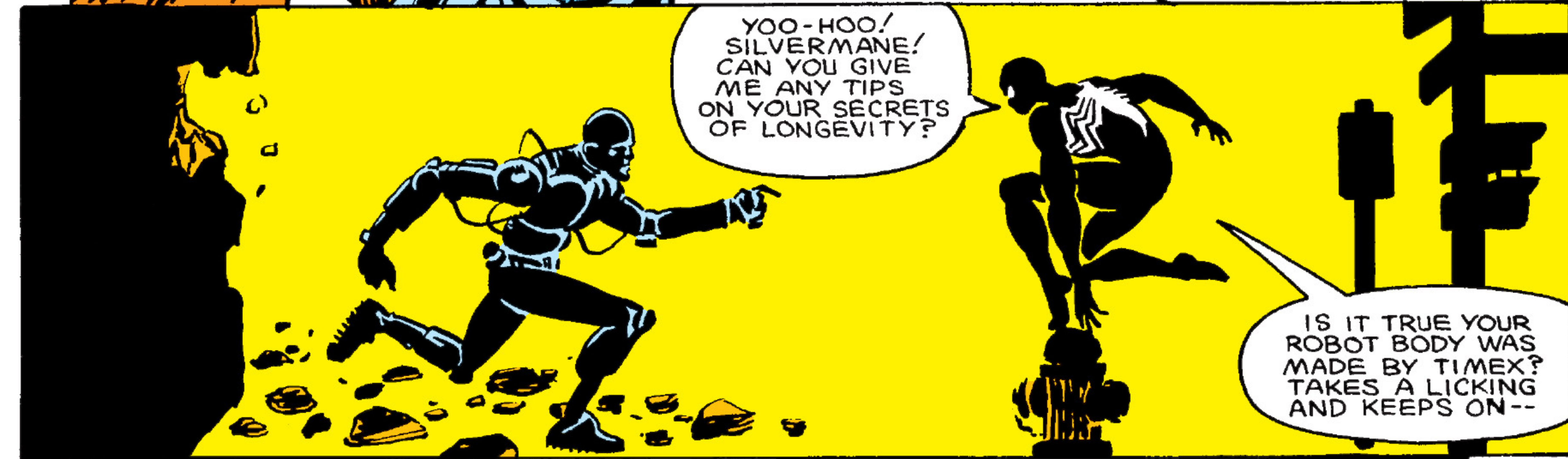






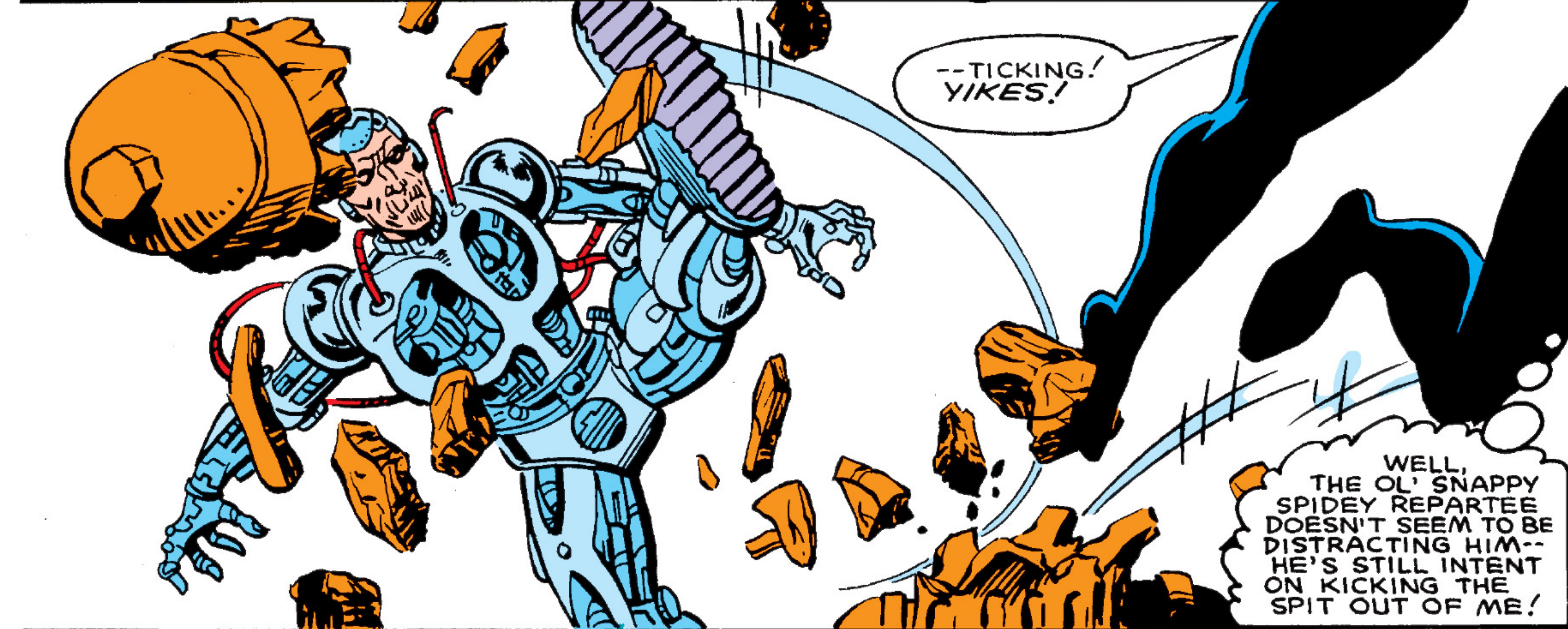


WHOOOPS! I WAS SO LOST IN MY THOUGHTS I ALMOST GOT **CRUSHED** BY THAT DEAD MAN!



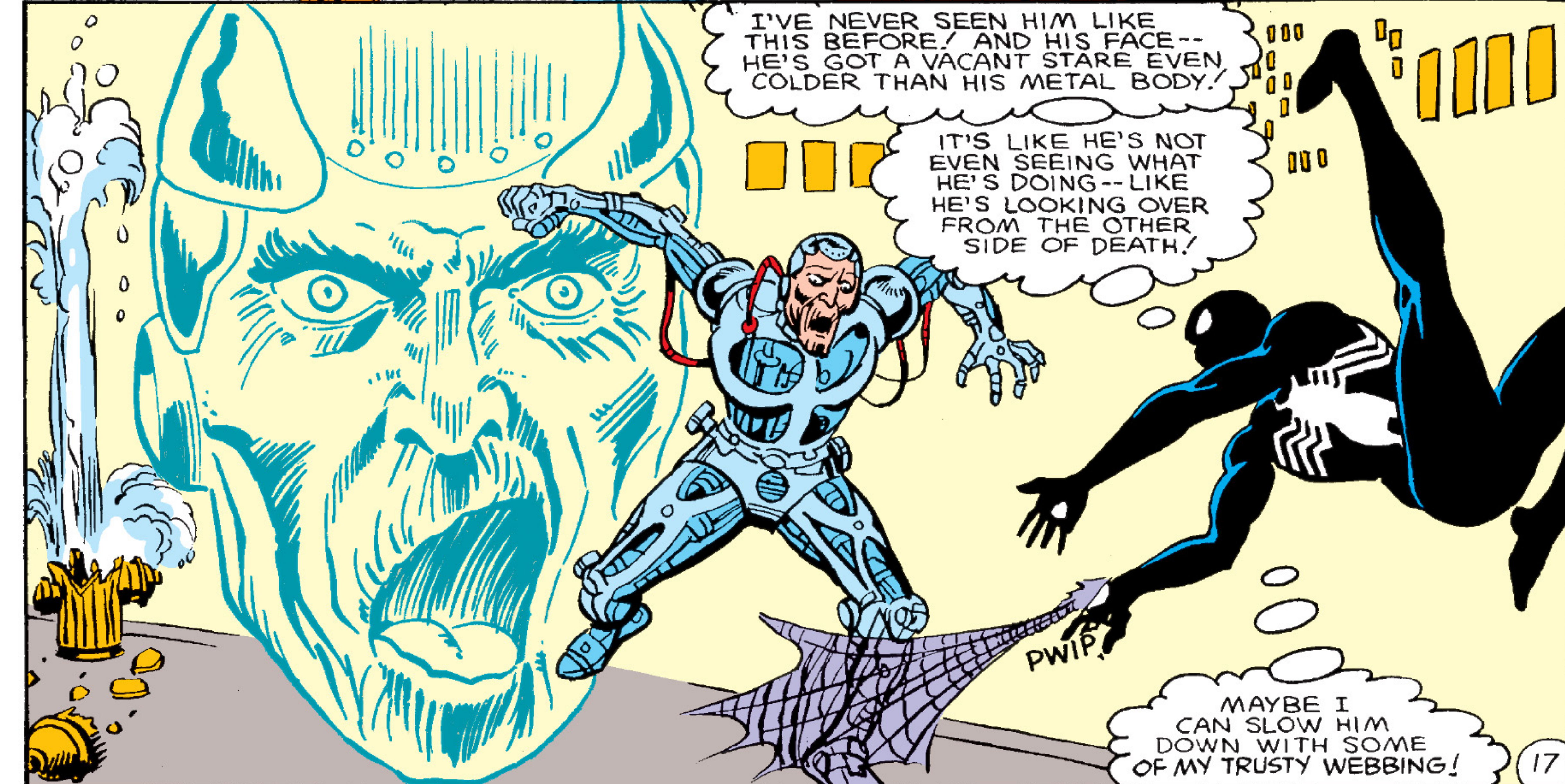
YOO-HOO! SILVERMANE! CAN YOU GIVE ME ANY TIPS ON YOUR SECRETS OF LONGEVITY?

IS IT TRUE YOUR ROBOT BODY WAS MADE BY TIMEX? TAKES A LICKING AND KEEPS ON--



--TICKING! YIKES!

WELL, THE OL' SNAPPY SPIDEY REPARTEE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DISTRACTING HIM-- HE'S STILL INTENT ON KICKING THE SPIT OUT OF ME!

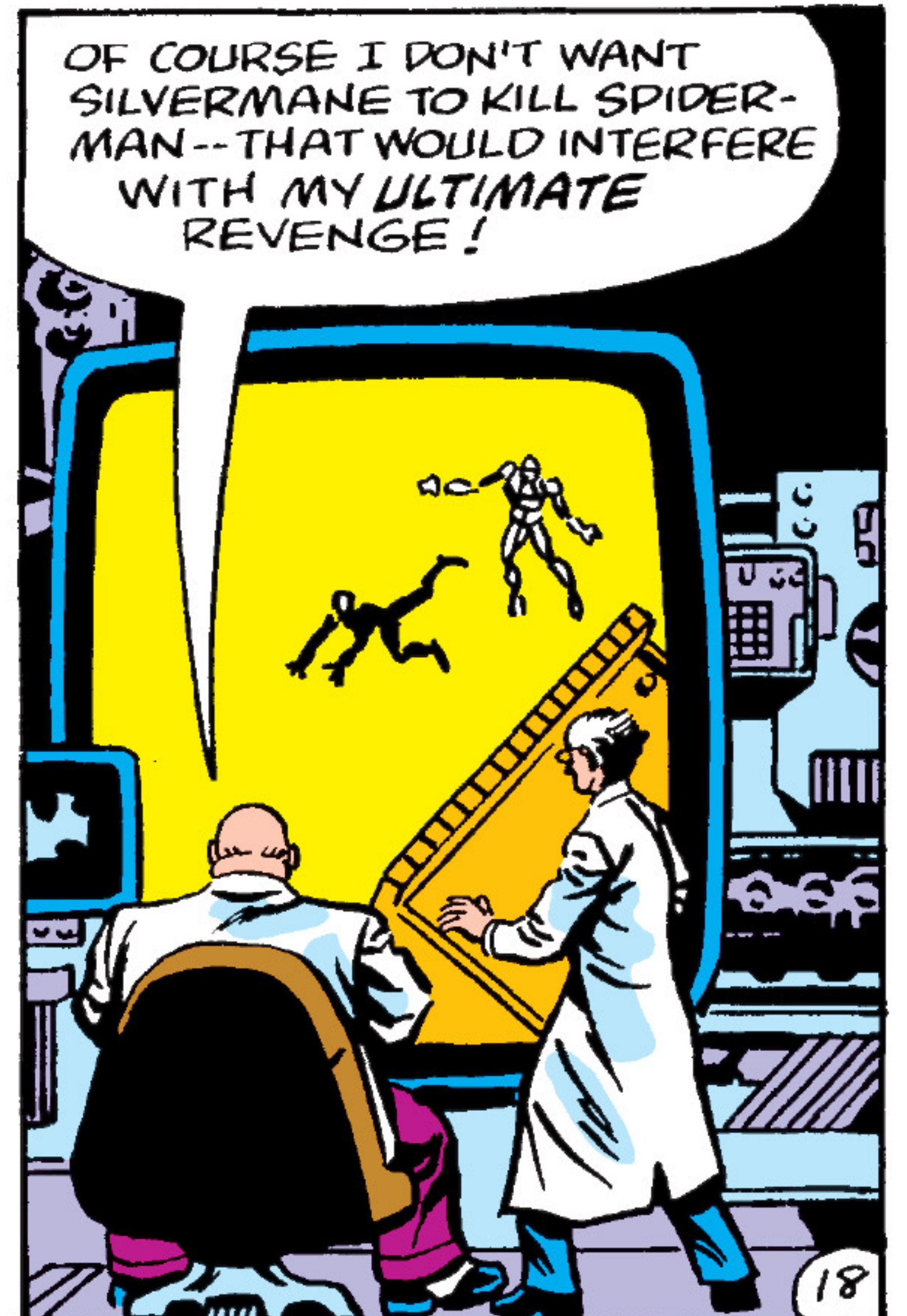
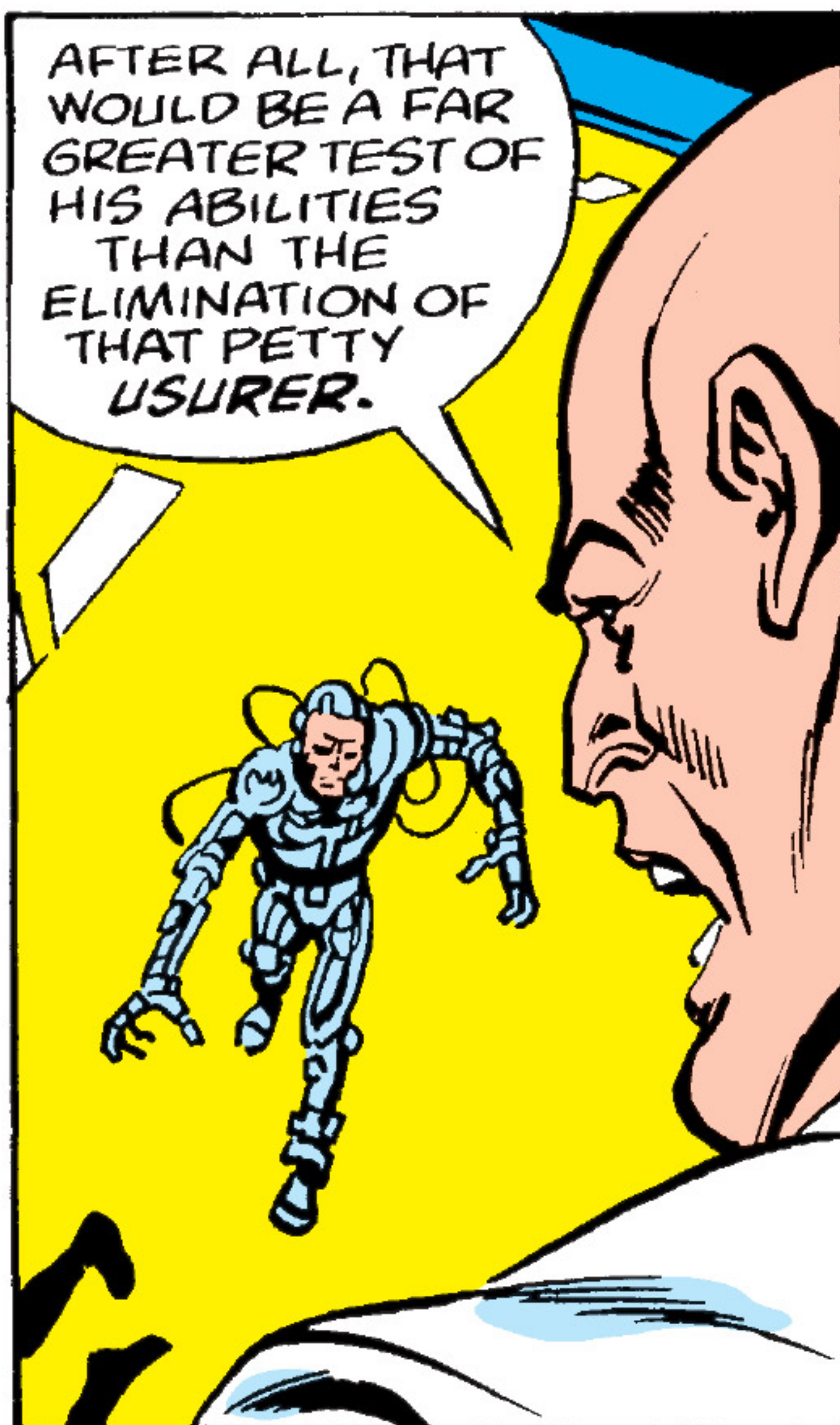
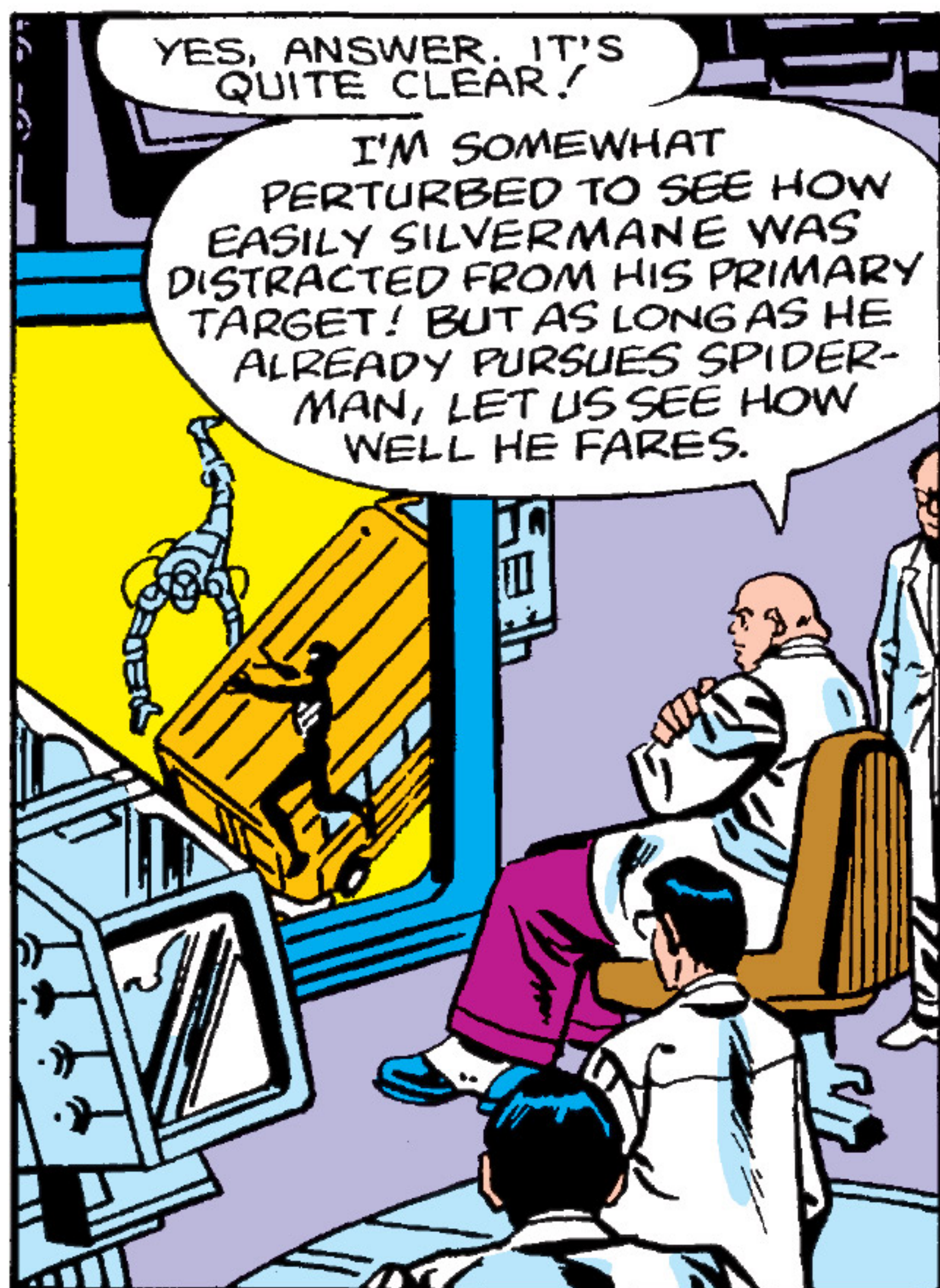
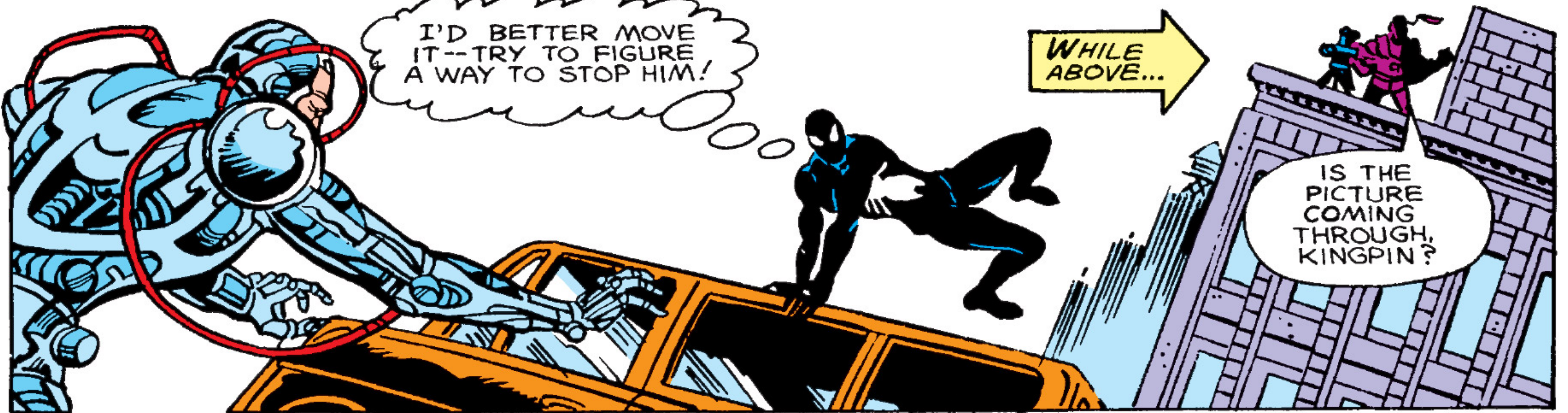
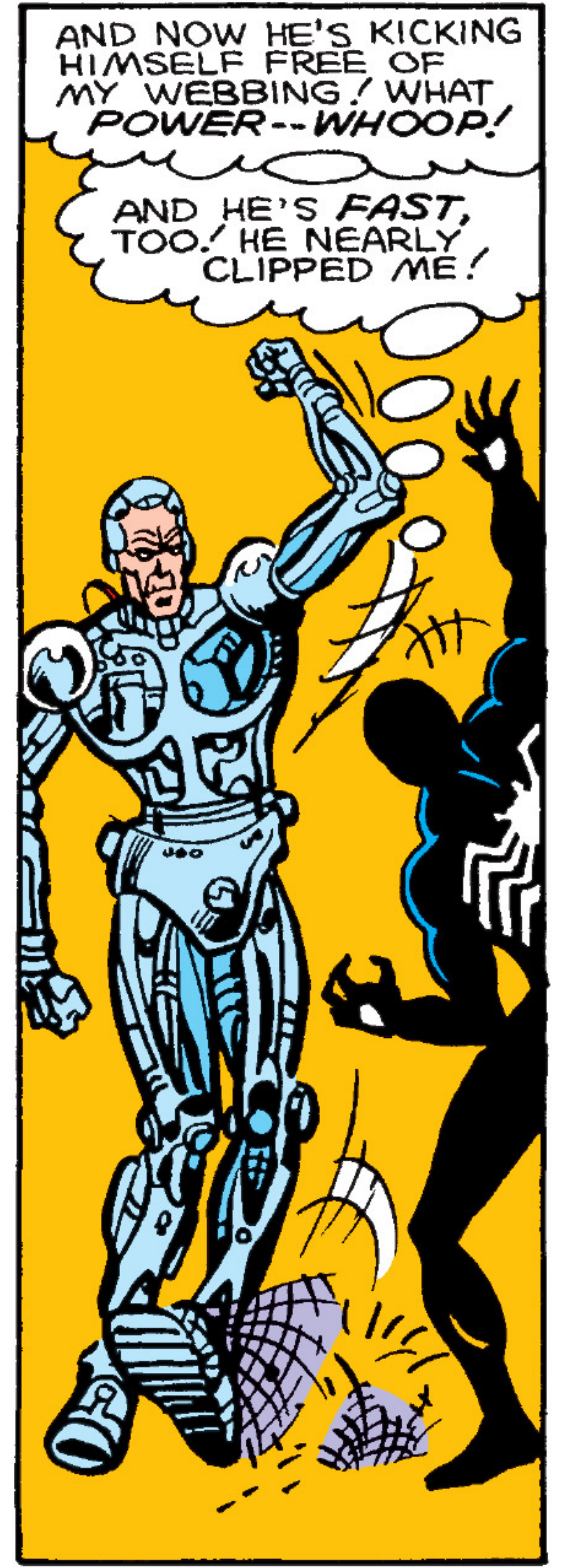
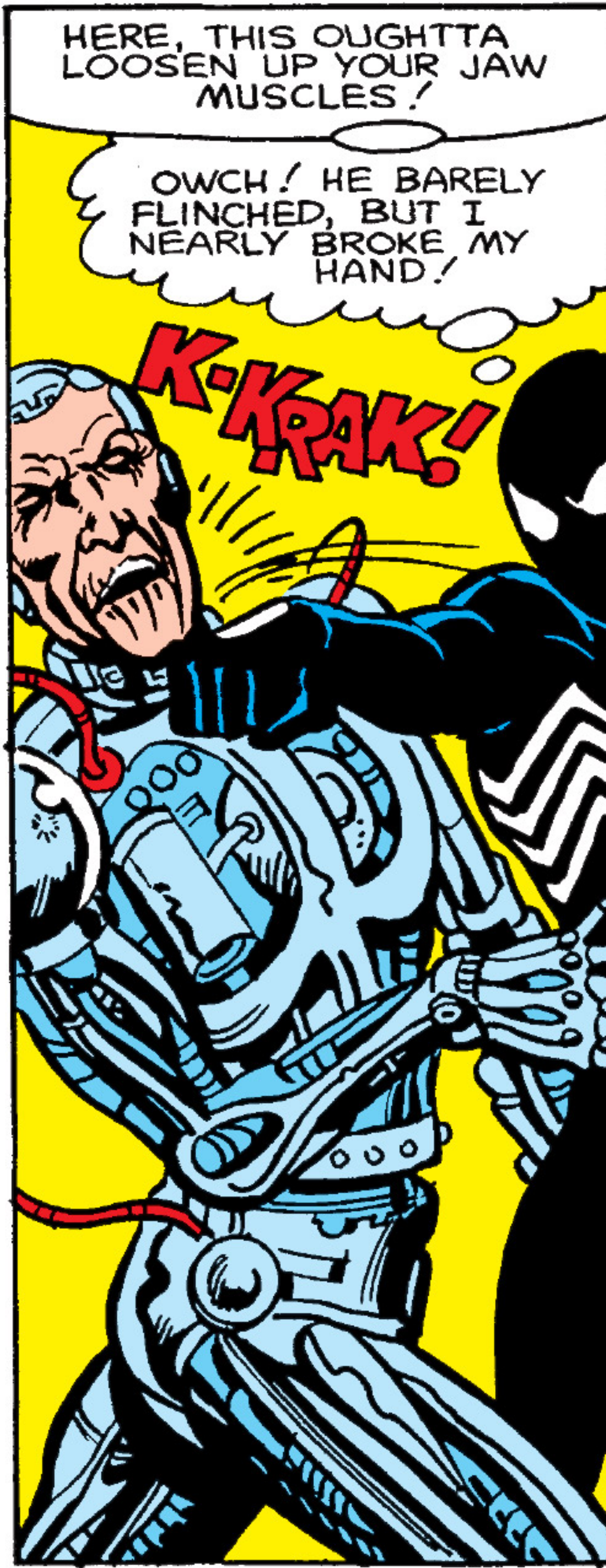
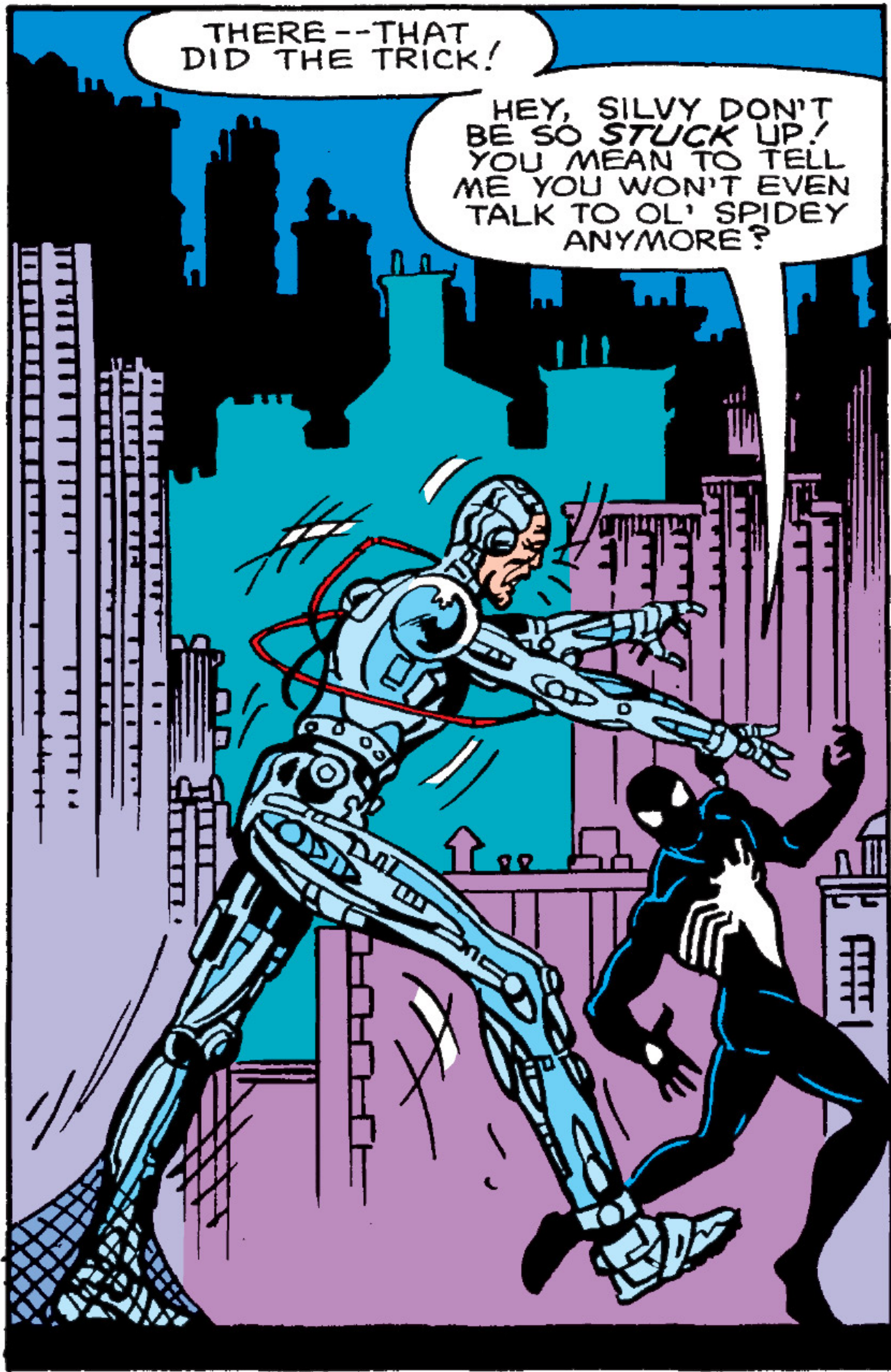


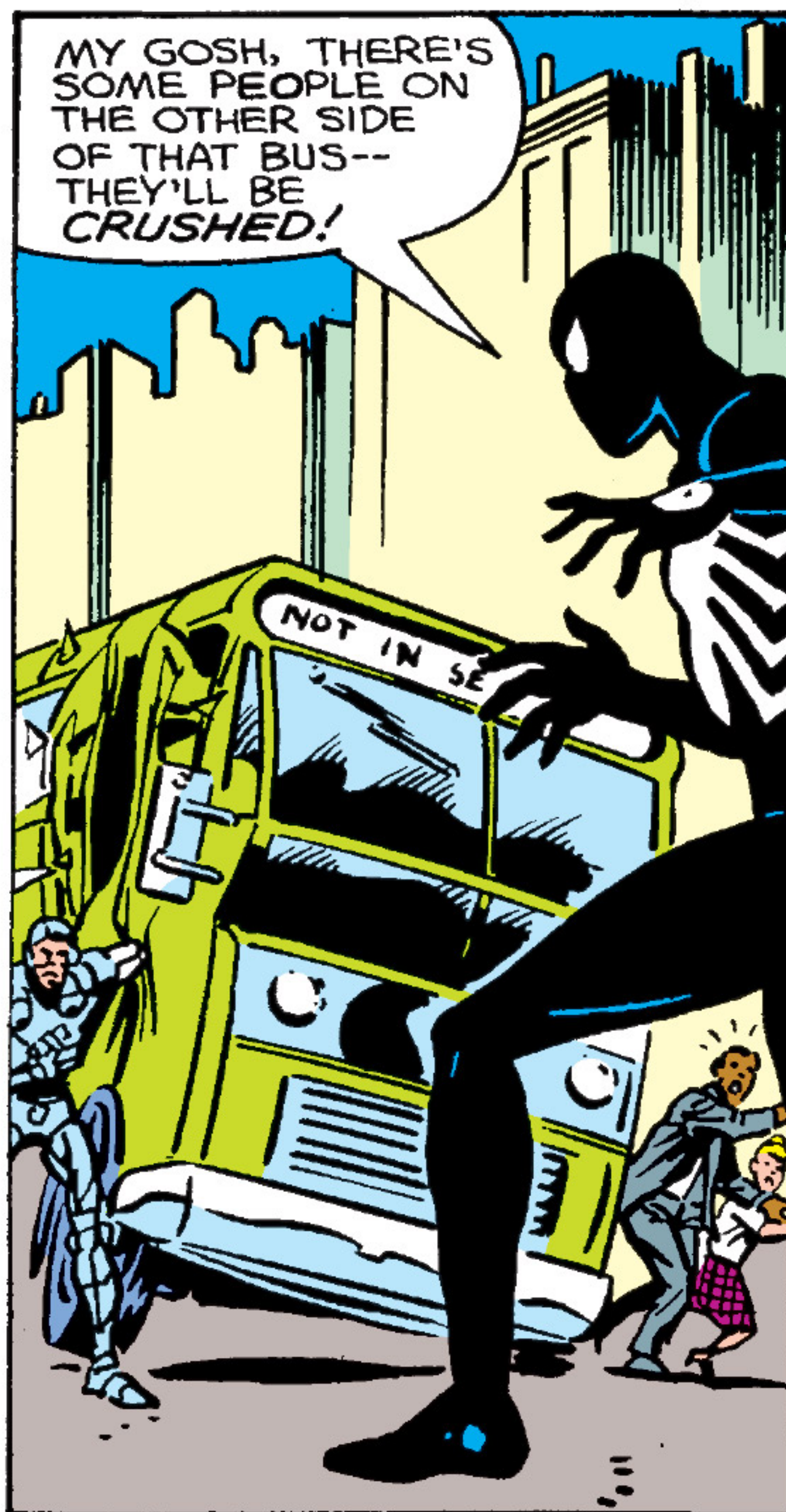
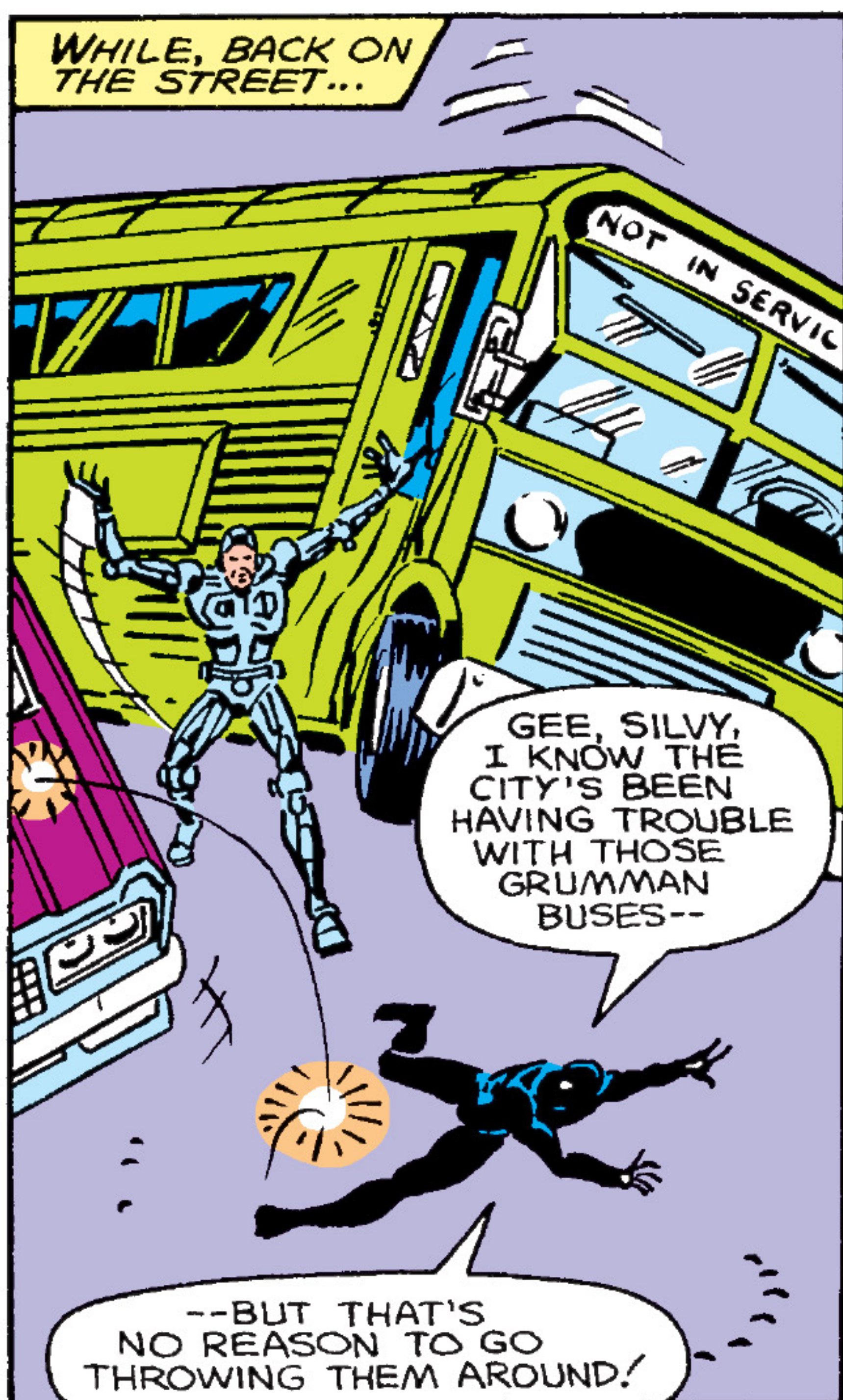
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS BEFORE! AND HIS FACE-- HE'S GOT A VACANT STARE EVEN COLDER THAN HIS METAL BODY!

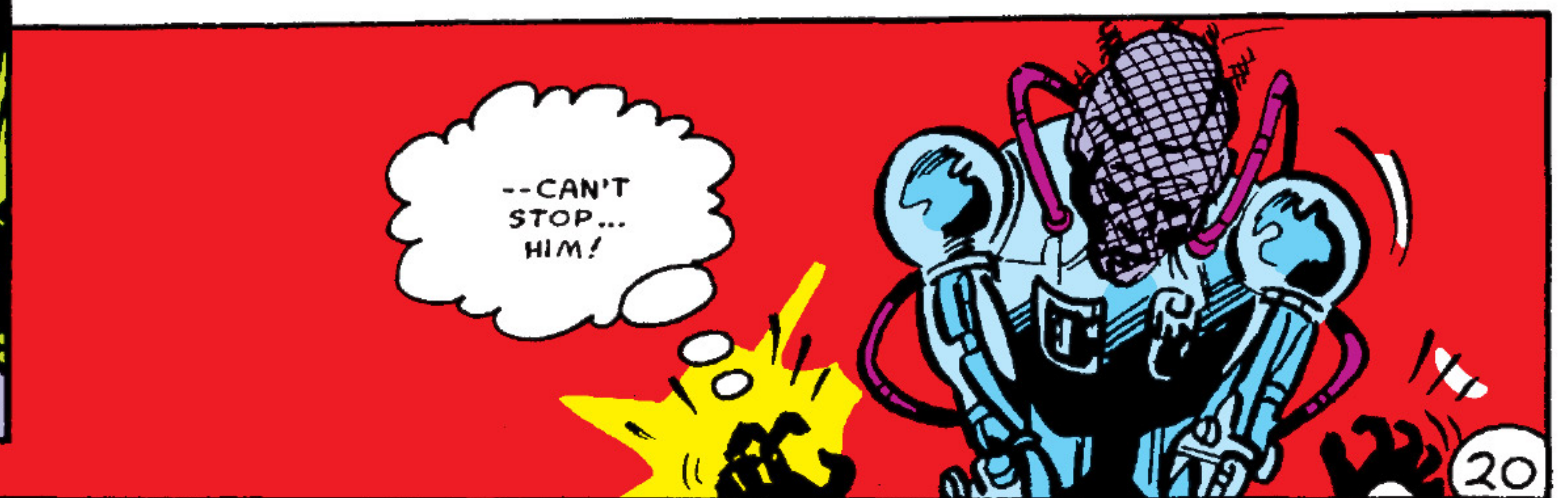
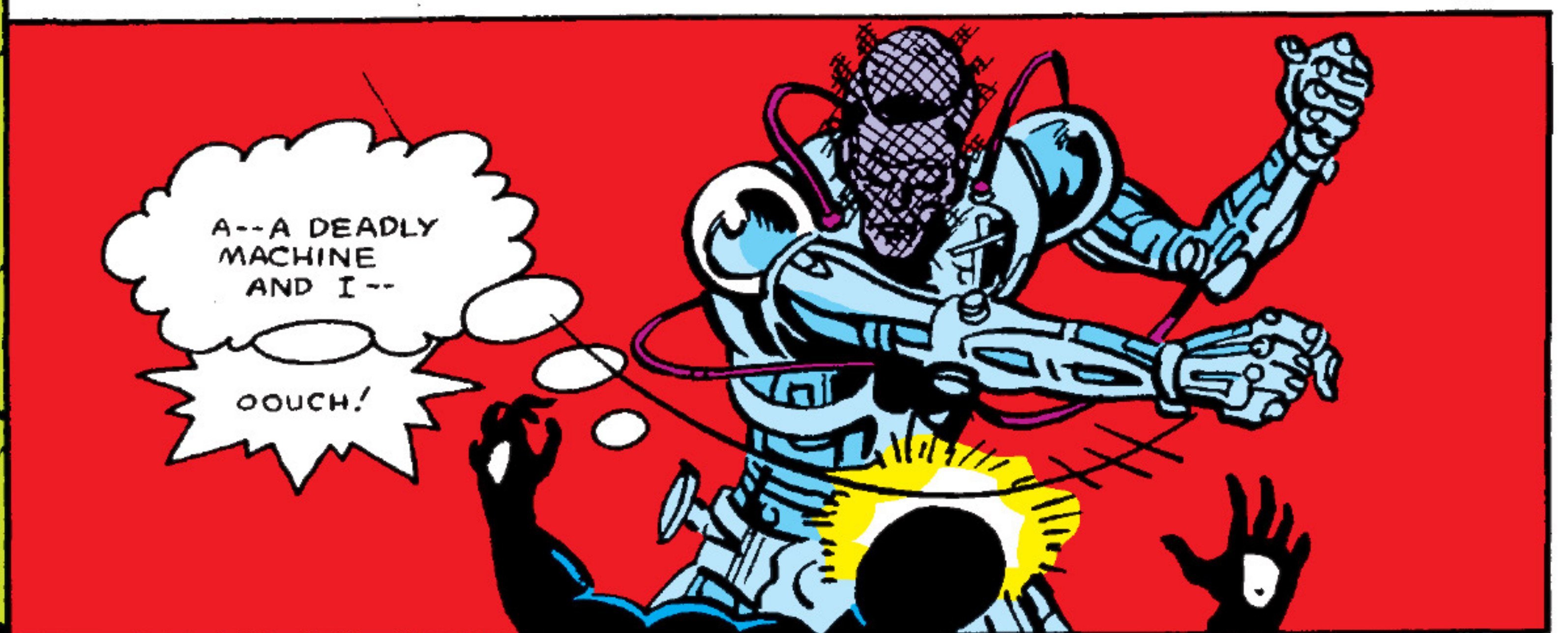
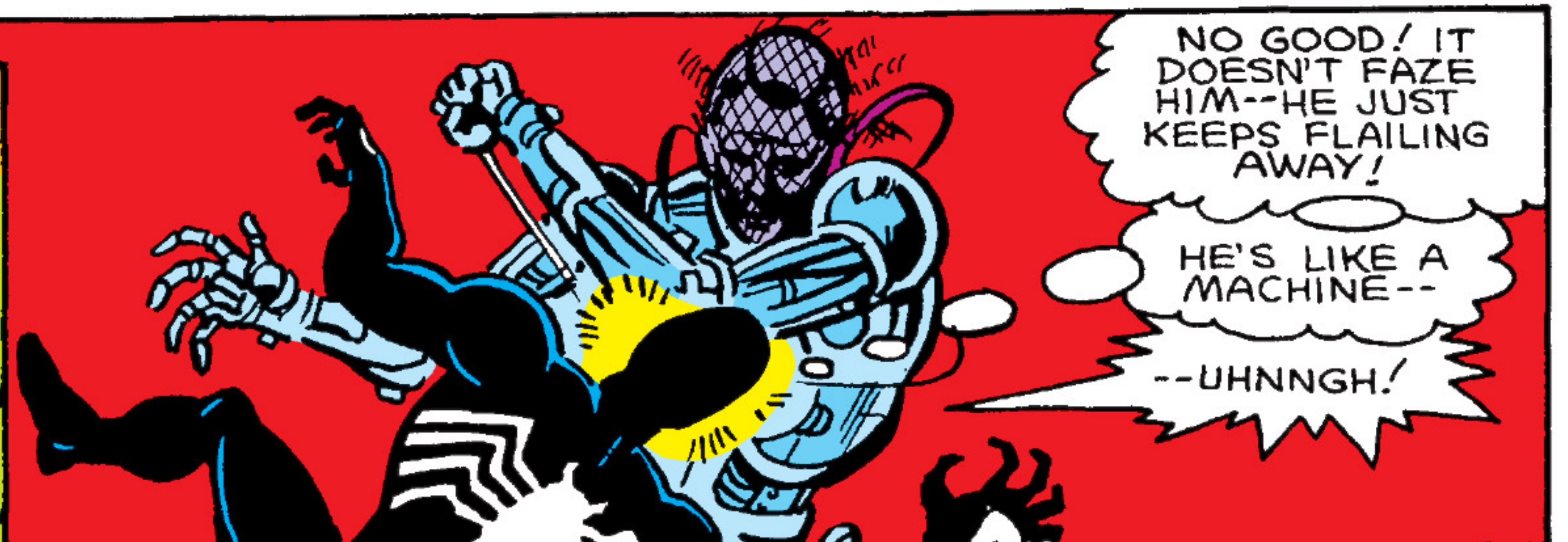
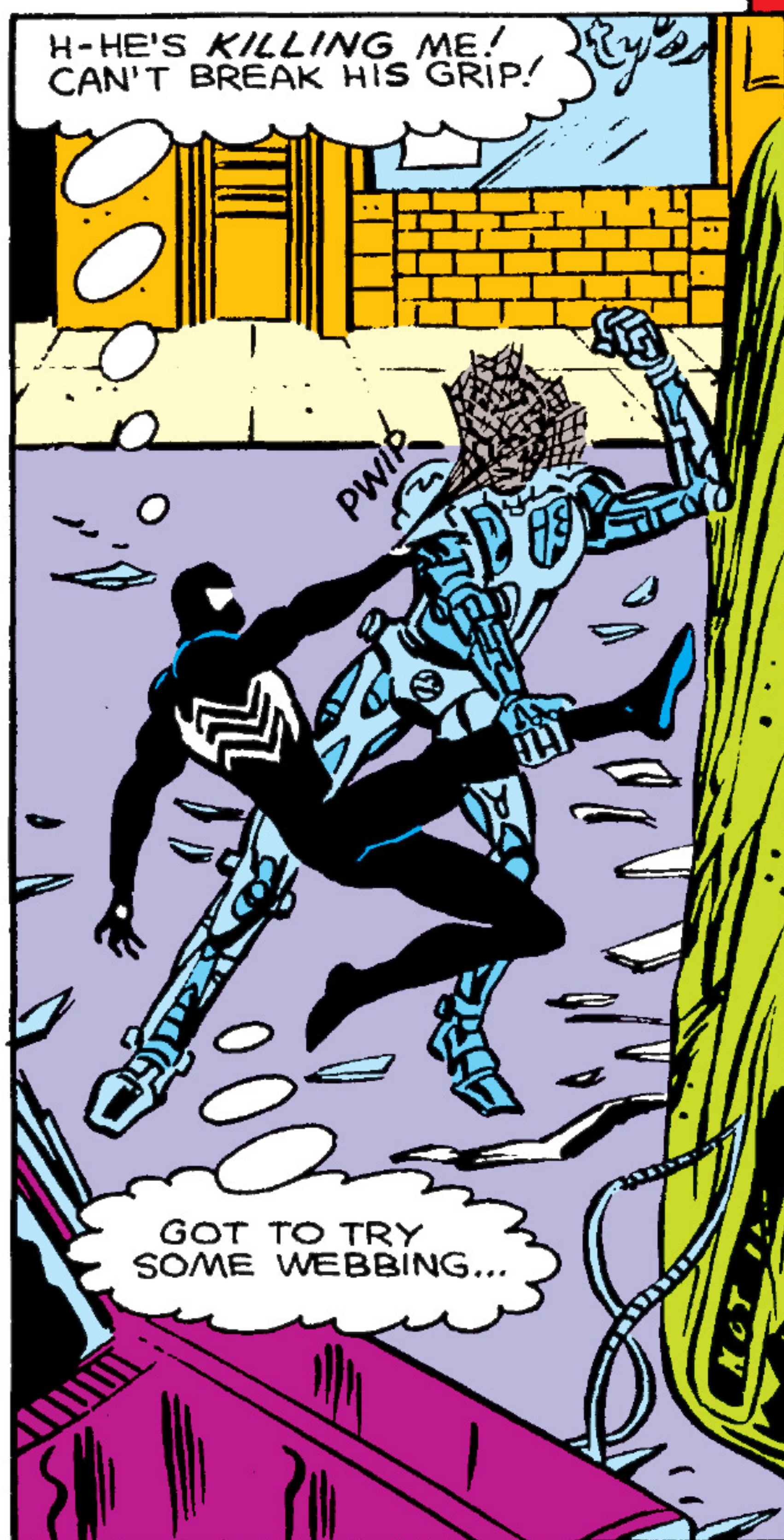
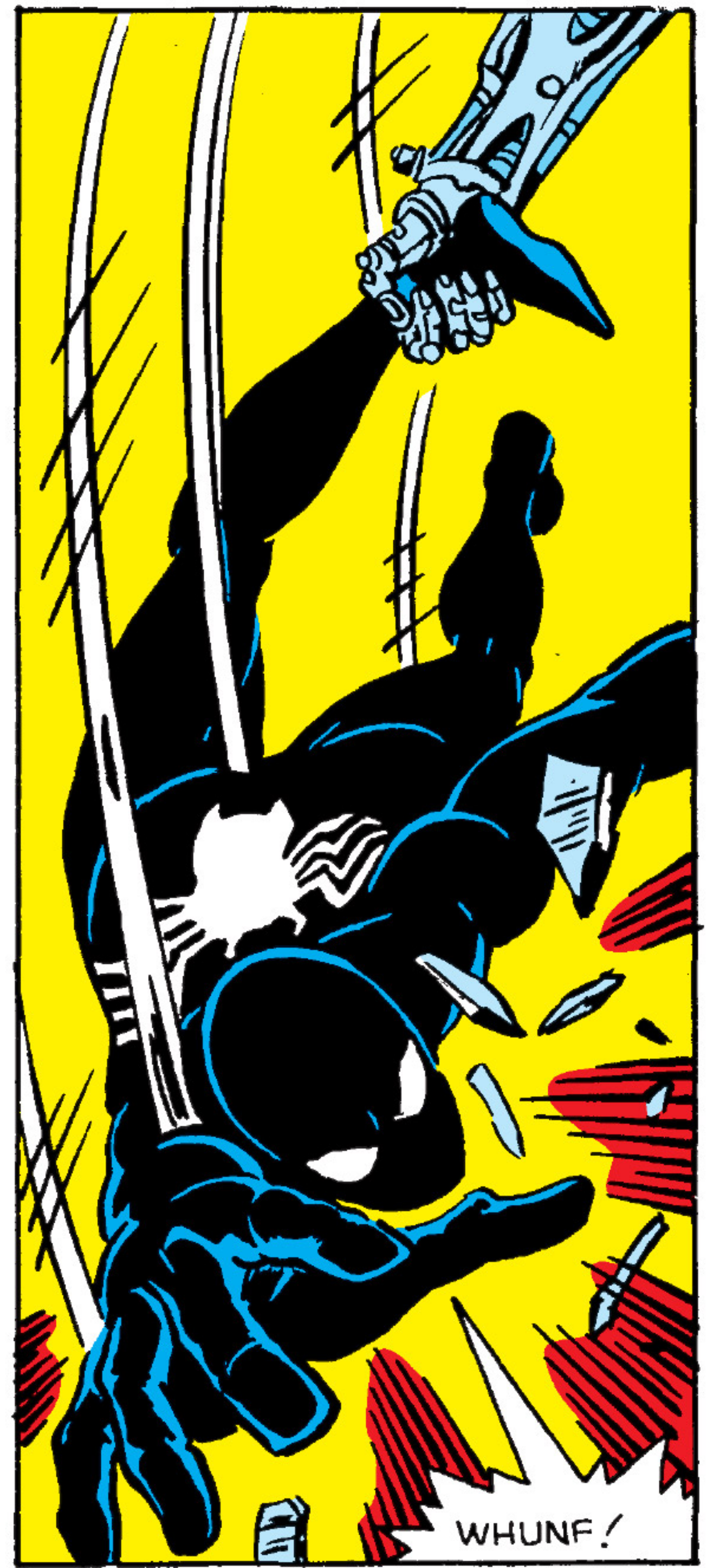
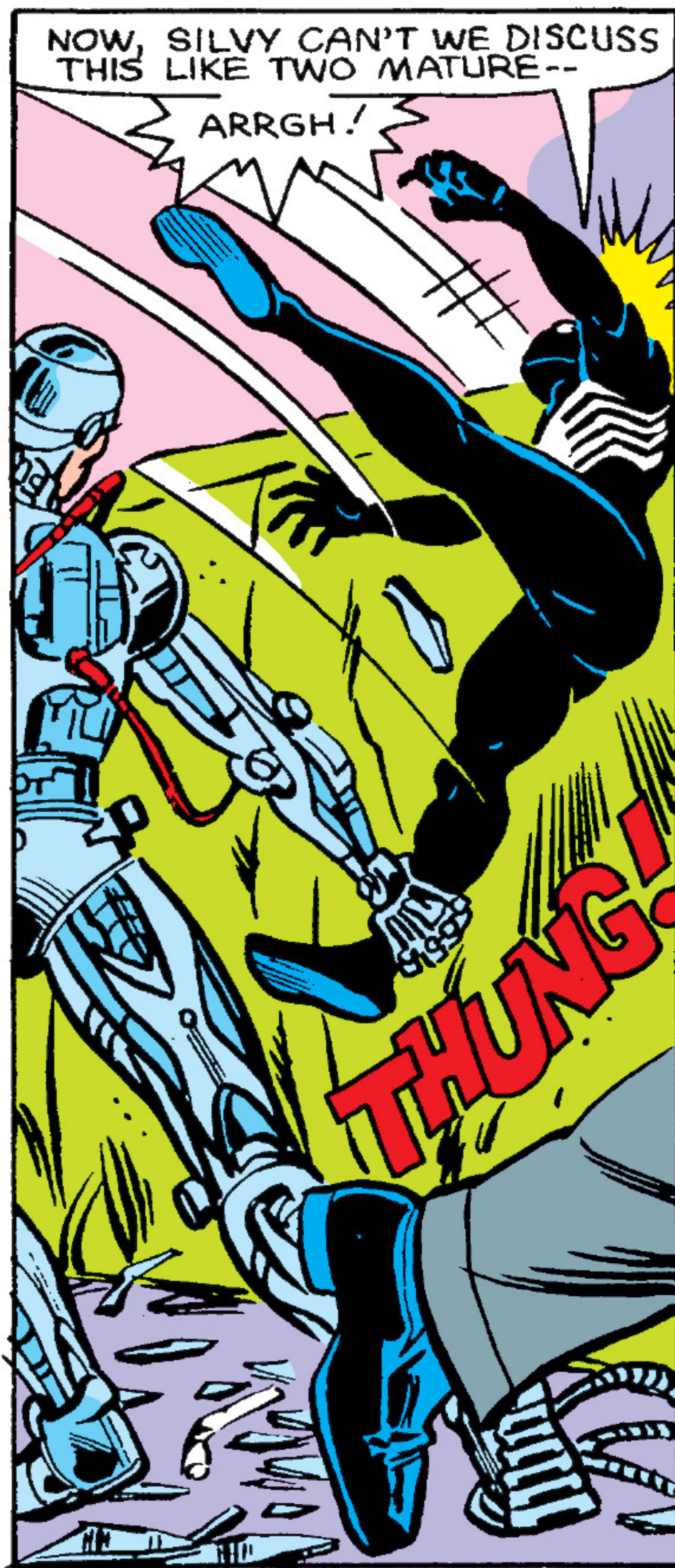
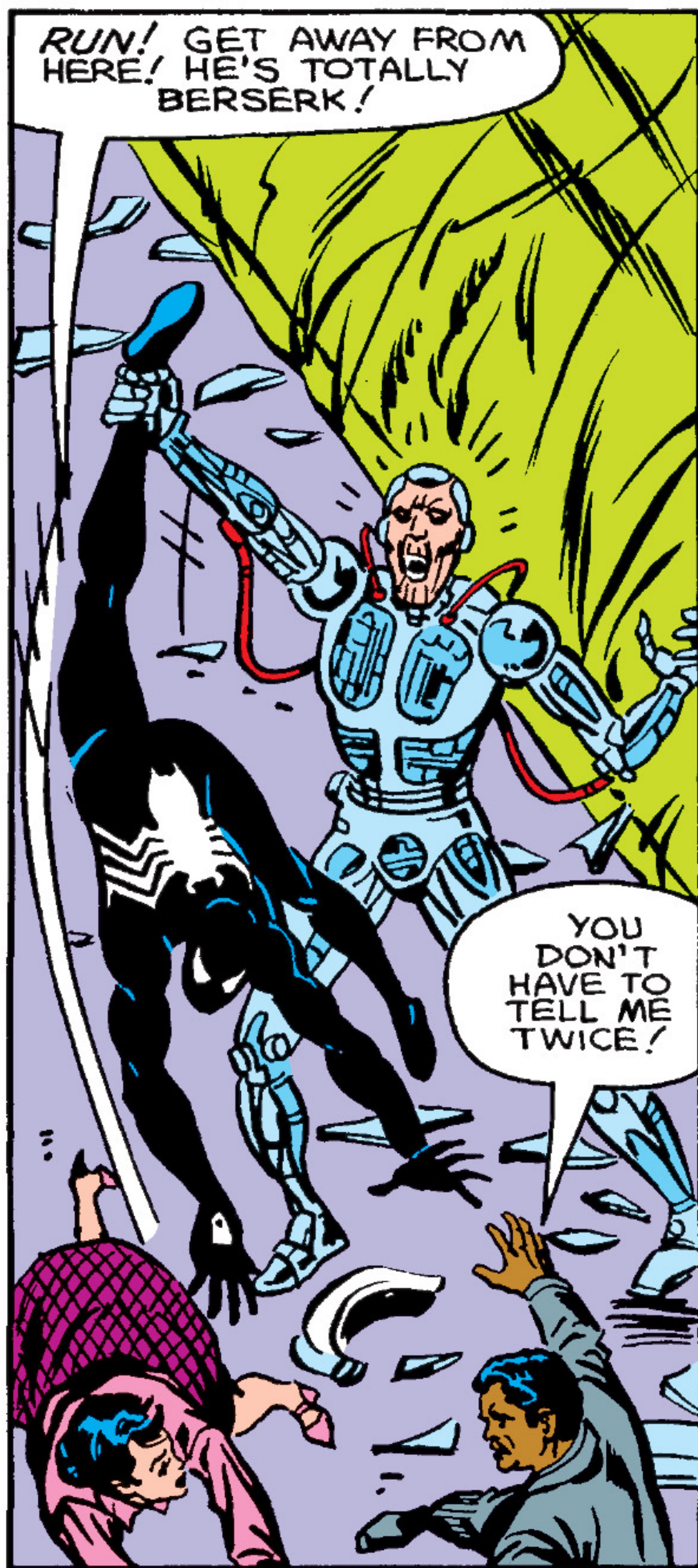
IT'S LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN SEEING WHAT HE'S DOING-- LIKE HE'S LOOKING OVER FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF DEATH!

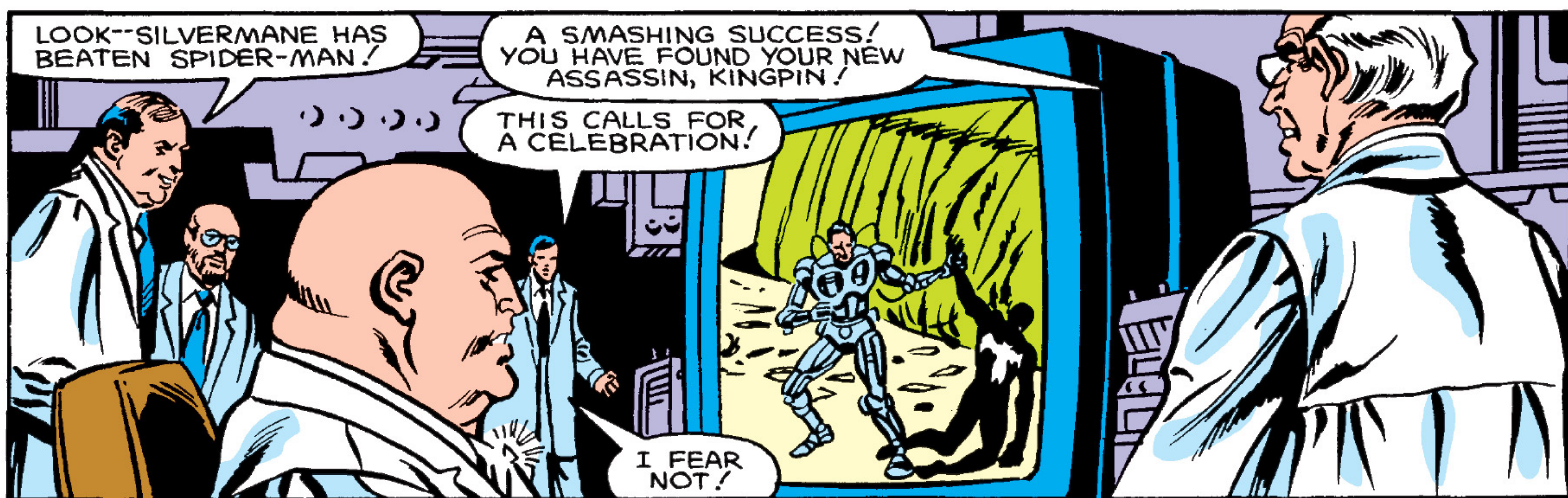
PWIP!

MAYBE I CAN SLOW HIM DOWN WITH SOME OF MY TRUSTY WEBBING!









LOOK--SILVERMANE HAS
BEATEN SPIDER-MAN!

A SMASHING SUCCESS!
YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR NEW
ASSASSIN, KINGPIN!

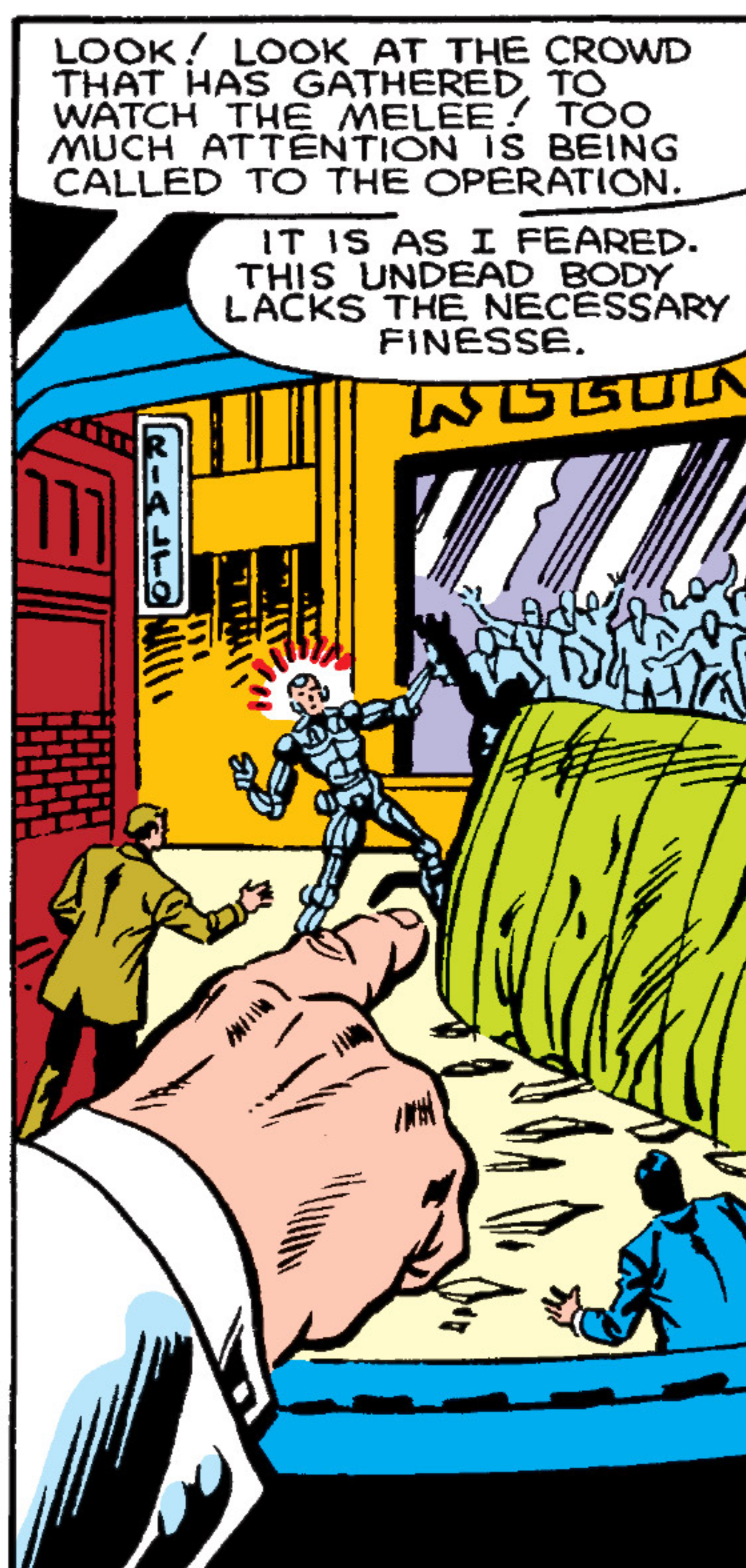
THIS CALLS FOR
A CELEBRATION!

I FEAR
NOT!



WH- WHY, WHAT
DO YOU MEAN?

I'LL GRANT YOU
THAT SILVERMANE
IS POWERFUL, BUT
HE LACKS THE SKILLS
AND SUBTLETY RE-
QUIRED FOR DELICATE
ASSIGNMENTS.



LOOK! LOOK AT THE CROWD
THAT HAS GATHERED TO
WATCH THE MELEE! TOO
MUCH ATTENTION IS BEING
CALLED TO THE OPERATION.

IT IS AS I FEARED.
THIS UNDEAD BODY
LACKS THE NECESSARY
FINESSE.



HAVE SILVERMANE RELEASE
SPIDER-MAN BEFORE HE
DOES PERMANENT HARM, THEN
SUMMON HIM BACK HERE!



YES, SIR.
AT ONCE!

THAT'S
STRANGE!

WHAT IS ?!



SILVERMANE ISN'T
RESPONDING TO THE
SUBMISSION COLLAR!
HE WON'T RELEASE
SPIDER-MAN! HE
WON'T RETURN!

21

AS THE KINGPIN'S TECHNICIANS WORK FEVERISHLY OVER THE CONTROLS, THE BLACK CAT PACES THE FLOOR OF HER ELEGANT APARTMENT...

WHERE'S SPIDER? HE SAID HE'D BE COMING RIGHT OVER... AND IT DOESN'T TAKE HIM THAT LONG TO SWING ACROSS TOWN!

MAYBE HE CHANGED HIS MIND! MAYBE HE'S STILL MAD ABOUT THAT FIGHT WE HAD! MAYBE HE FOUND SOME MOUSEY LITTLE GIRL WHO LIKES HIM AS THAT--THAT PETER PARKER PERSON!

I'LL BET THAT'S IT! WELL, IF THAT'S TRUE... IF THAT'S WHY HE'S STANDING ME UP--!

WHY I WOULDN'T TAKE HIM BACK NOW, EVEN IF HE CAME CRAWLING ON HIS KNEES, I--

TAP TAP TAP

EH--? WHO'S THAT AT THE DOOR?

SPIDER!!

CAT, IT WAS SILVERMANE! I-I COULDN'T STOP HIM!

HE BEAT ME-- BAD! AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD--

--HE LET ME GO.

HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED, CAT!

DON'T WORRY, SPIDER, WE'LL STOP HIM!

NO! WE CAN'T DO IT! H-HE'S TOO STRONG! ONLY ONES WHO CAN STOP HIM-- GOT TO FIND THEM, CAT--

--GOT TO FIND CLOAK & DAGGER!

NEXT: THE DAGGER AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!